

Radiation test lab to be set up

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Wednesday approved the establishment of a fully-equipped radiation laboratory to detect the rate of radiation in food, air and water. The laboratory will be a central, independent and national institution. The approval to establish such a laboratory was based upon a recommendation from University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharabeh who explained to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti the issue of radiation in the last several years. The laboratory would be founded in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the university. The Cabinet approved the formation of a committee grouping experts from the ministry, the RSS and the university.

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Arafat, Netanyahu agree to discuss Hebron but little else

Israel rebuffs efforts to be pinned down on pullback and to reverse tunnel decision

Washington summit fails to resolve key disputes that triggered violent clashes

Clinton announcement of summit outcome disappoints Palestinians; Israelis jubilant

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIAN PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday agreed to resume peace negotiations but did not reach agreement on key disputes which erupted into bloodshed last week.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, addressing the press after a two-day summit that grouped Mr. Arafat, Mr. Netanyahu, His Majesty King Hussein and himself, announced that the Palestinian and Israeli leaders would meet again on Sunday at the Erez crossing for "full-time negotiations" under the mediation of U.S. Mideast peace envoy Dennis Ross.

Beyond that, however, no agreement was announced. It was clear that Mr. Netanyahu refused to be pinned down on a definite timetable for Israeli withdrawal from Hebron and also rebuffed efforts to persuade him to reconsider the opening of a controversial tunnel that had led to last week's clashes.

Only President Clinton addressed the press conference at the end of the summit. King Hussein and Mr. Arafat attended the event along with Mr. Netanyahu but declined to speak in a show of what was widely interpreted as their disappointment with the failure to reach agreements on the key issues.

Palestinians described the outcome of the summit as a failure while Israeli officials hailed the results of the meeting as a victory.

Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour told Reuters in occupied Jerusalem: "What happened in Washington was an American attempt to absorb the anger and reaction of Palestinians and to give the appearance of success. But the summit has failed because of Israeli intransigence."

Israeli cabinet official Danny Naveh told Israel Radio from Washington: "The results of the summit are a great success from the point of view of the government of Israel. All the demands...we presented in the contacts and the negotiations we've held day and night since coming here were accepted."

Mr. Clinton told the White House press conference the agenda for the resumed Israeli-Palestinian negotiation would include Israel's long-overdue withdrawal from Hebron, the key unfulfilled commitment under the Oslo peace accord signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel's previous government.

A close Netanyahu advisor said: "We'd agreed on almost everything but on a firm date for the Hebron redeployment. The Palestinians prevented agreement."

Erez Crossing zone from the Gaza Strip into Israel.

The Palestinians had demanded a firm date for the pullout, but the Israelis insisted first that the redeployment plan be modified to improve "security" for Hebron's Jewish settlers.

The spark which set off last week's violence was Israel's decision to open a new entrance into an archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem near the Al Aqsa Mosque.

The Palestinians, with wide international backing, originally set the tunnel's closure as a bottom-line condition for resuming peace negotiations, but the Israelis refused and the issue has taken a back seat to Hebron at the Washington talks.

"The problems that exploded last week... are still there, but I believe there is a higher level of understanding," Mr. Clinton said.

"They were not able to resolve their differences here, but to be fair when we came together there were no advance guarantees," he added.

"There was no specific date set (for the pullout), but I think it's important to point out that what they did agree to do was to (deal with the issue) with a priority on speed," he said.

While Mr. Clinton spoke, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu were seated side

(Continued on page 7)



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sit together during a joint press conference on Wednesday at the White House (Reuters)

Text of Clinton's statement

FOLLOWING is the text of a statement by President Bill Clinton after the summit ended in Washington Wednesday.

"The four of us have agreed that I will speak about our two days of meetings and then do my best to faithfully answer questions that you have about it. And of course the other three leaders will have a chance to be heard after the press conference."

"I'd like to begin by thanking King Hussein, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat for coming here to Washington at this critical and very difficult moment for the Middle East peace process. Their journey reflects a true commitment to peace and an understanding that there is no alternative to the path of peace their people

have travelled so far along in the last few years."

"I invited them here with three urgent goals in mind. First, to seek to curb the terrible violence and death that we saw last week."

Second, to get the Israelis and the Palestinians talking again at the highest levels. And third, to help both parties return to the hard work of building peace through negotiations."

"Today I can report progress on these goals. First, the Israelis and Palestinians clearly are talking again at the highest levels. I believe the calm, constructive, face-

(Continued on page 7)

Time for actions rather than words, King to Netanyahu

'Unilateral changes to Arab Jerusalem are not acceptable'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein met in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and discussed the situation in the Palestinian territories and emphasised the need for "moving from the stage of words to the stage of actions and from commitment to agreements to commitment to the implementation of agreements," the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

During the meeting, held before the Washington summit ended on Wednesday, the King also demanded that no unilateral change be made to Arab East Jerusalem, Petra said.

Petra said that the King underlined the importance of the Washington meetings "at this dangerous stage and in view of the obstacles to the peace process."

Mr. Netanyahu outlined Israel's stand adding that it was ready to respond to the requirements of peace, the agency said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and reviewed with him the outcome of the meetings in Washington. "Both sides underlined the need for Israel to remain committed to the implementation of the agreements concluded in Oslo," Petra said.

Mr. Kabariti earlier met with Palestinian Minister of Local Government Saeb Erekat and discussed efforts for unifying Arab stands vis-a-vis the various issues connected with the Palestinian question, the Petra said.

White House pays tribute to King

On Tuesday, the White House paid tribute to King Hussein's role in the Washington summit.

King Hussein played a major role in helping Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu come together for a three-hour meeting at the White House on Tuesday in

(Continued on page 7)

406 draft dodgers to be released

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday ordering the release of 406 draft dodgers as of Thursday Oct. 3, 1996.

Saudi beheaded for murder

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia on Wednesday beheaded a Saudi man for murder, bringing to 36 the number of people executed in the kingdom this year. An Interior Ministry statement read on Saudi Television said the man was beheaded by sword for shooting and killing another man.

Yeltsin health okay — doctor

MOSCOW (R) — Doctors are "entirely satisfied" with the results of new medical checks on Russian President Boris Yeltsin and preparations for his heart surgery are continuing, Interfax news agency said on Wednesday. "According to the tactics worked out at the full medical council on Sept. 25, a series of tests on the patient's various organs and systems was carried out. In part, his external breathing and kidneys," it quoted the head of the presidential medical centre as saying.

Juppe wins confidence vote

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Alain Juppe won a parliamentary vote of confidence on Wednesday for his austerity policies despite grumbling in his centre-right coalition. Deputies in the National Assembly voted by 464 to 100 to endorse the embattled premier, officials said. The victory had been a foregone conclusion since Mr. Juppe's coalition controls four-fifths of the 577 seats.

Israeli soldiers kill Palestinian, injure 5 in West Bank violence

HEBRON (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers on Wednesday shot dead one Palestinian and wounded five in two incidents in the West Bank. Israeli security sources and Palestinians said.

The security sources identified the dead man as Mu'taz Jaradat and said he died on his way from the Hebron area to an Israeli hospital from bullet wounds to the abdomen.

Israeli troops enforced a strict curfew on Hebron Wednesday. Palestinians were confined to their homes for fear new violence could erupt if the Washington summit ends in failure and no target date for an Israeli troop pullback is announced.

Dozens were killed last week in fighting between Israeli troops and Palestinian police. The unprecedented clashes — culminating months of Palestinian frustration over Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's tough policies — broke out during protests over Israel's opening of an archaeological tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem.

In Israel and the Palestinian areas there was nervous anticipation for the outcome of the Washington summit.

Palestinian legislator Hanan Ashrawi said she expected a resumption of protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat did not return with some achievements. "If this summit fails, we will face bad

consequences," Ms. Ashrawi told the Associated Press.

Ephraim Sneh, a leader of Israel's opposition Labour Party, said that unless Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu resolved key issues like the much-delayed Israeli pullout from Hebron, "we will slide ever deeper into confrontation."

The Israeli army, meanwhile, appeared to be taking no chances, moving troops and heavy weaponry, including tanks, Cobra helicopters and sniper squads, to the outskirts of the Palestinian autonomous zones.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai warned Palestinians that Israel would not tolerate a resumption of hostilities.

"Any opening of fire will be met with fire and massive force," he told reporters.

The Haaretz daily said the army had also eased open-fire restrictions on its soldiers, who were instructed to shoot Palestinians even approaching their positions. The army spokesman's office said it was checking the report.

In Jerusalem, some 50,000 marchers, including about 4,000 fundamentalist Christians, walked through town Wednesday to show their support for Israel's claim to all of the city.

Pro-Netanyahu demonstrators mingled with a crowd of tens of thousands that turned out for a pop concert in a Jerusalem park to end the march. Many wore stickers saying: "Why did you give them

guns?" — referring to the Palestinian police — and one woman held a sign saying "Netanyahu be strong. The people are with you."

In Hebron Wednesday night, groups of young Palestinians stood nervously at the entrances to alleys ready for a quick getaway if patrolling Israeli soldiers approach. An occasional cat scurried across streets littered with rocks from the morning's stone-throwing clashes.

Traffic came to a halt for five minutes at noon in a strike called by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) against Israel's closure of Palestinian-ruled areas since last week's gunbattles.

Pedestrians also stopped in a moment of silence. The standstill was reminiscent of the shutdown Israel observes for victims of its wars and the Nazi holocaust.

Thousands of Israelis and foreign Jews marched to the Wailing Wall for the Jewish feast of Tabernacles, an annual religious pilgrimage which this year took on political overtones because of the unprecedented fighting.

At a rally some Israelis held banners reading: "Hebron is ours forever."

Israeli reporters and defence sources claimed, meanwhile, the PNA had prepared plans to fight Israel even before last week's clashes, and may have ordered snipers to shoot to kill.

"They were shooting with the intent to kill," he said.

U.N.: No hurdle to work in north Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The head of U.N. relief efforts in Iraq said on Wednesday that humanitarian assistance under a long-delayed oil-for-food deal was feasible in northern Iraq despite last month's fighting among Kurdish factions.

"My impression is that there is a possibility of humanitarian action," Assistant Secretary General Gualtero Fulcheri told Reuters.

Mr. Fulcheri, who met the head of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Massoud Barzani for three hours last Sunday, said the Kurdish strongman had given him

assurances for the safety of U.N. and other humanitarian staff in the region.

"I wanted to know if we needed to make changes in the plans that we had made for the north, whether the security of the people in the north could be protected by the new de facto authorities, or whether they didn't want them."

"I was reassured on all counts," Mr. Fulcheri, who has submitted a report on his trip to United Nations headquarters said in an interview.

Asked if implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to export \$2 bil-

lion worth of oil to buy urgently needed food and medicine, had been jeopardised by last month's fighting, Mr. Fulcheri said: "Not from what we have seen so far."

Currency curb relaxed

Iraq, in a bid to improve its battered currency, allowed state banks to sell hard currency in exchange for dinars for the first time on Wednesday, an Iraqi official said.

"Upon orders from President Saddam Hussein, may God protect him... We have taken new measures (to sell hard currency to people) and

we have started implementation today," Mr. Kuhair Kasab, deputy director of the state-run Al Rasheed Bank, told Reuters.

The Iraqi dinar surged to 1,370 against the U.S. dollar on Wednesday morning up from 1,550 on Tuesday.

The new exchange rate set by the banks was 1,340 dinar to the dollar. The price will be revised each morning, Mr. Kasab said.

"A committee was set up at the central bank which meets every morning and decides the rate. But it would be less than that of the commercial markets any way," Mr. Kasab said.

Peru plane crashes; 70 aboard

ANCON (AP) — A Peruvian jet carrying 70 people crashed into cold, foggy Pacific Ocean waters north of Lima after the pilot reported a mechanical failure Wednesday.

The aircraft was believed to have gone down about 5 kilometres offshore, according to police General Carlos Venturo.

Rescue crew working on shore five kilometres north of Ancon, 50 kilometres north of Lima, reported finding no bodies or survivors.

Aeroperu Flight 603, a Boeing 757, was en route to Santiago, Chile, when it crashed near Ancon, the airline said in a statement.

A spokesman for Peru's air police said a rescue helicopter had located what was thought to be the point of the plane's impact and

had seen only oil floating on the surface of the ocean. Aeroperu officials said rescue officials reported they found remains of the aircraft in the sea off the coast.

The air police spokesman, who refused to give his name, said that once the fog lifted, three police helicopters were to head to the crash site and drop two inflatable rafts capable of carrying 15 people each. Navy boats were searching the area.

A Boeing 727, carried passengers on the flight from Miami, said Raul Chiappo, the airline's operations manager for the airline. The 727 was flown to Miami from Peru after a 757 in Miami developed mechanical problems, he said, without specifying the difficulties.

Fire chief General Juan Pijeres of the Lima port of Callao, said: "The plane's whole system completely failed."

The airline has two 757s, he said. He would not say where the 757 with problems was at the time of the crash.

The crew also was switched in Miami, said Armando Vicente, airport manager in Lima.

The nationalities of people aboard were not immediately available. Mr. Chiappo said 20 people aboard during the crash had boarded the flight from New York, he said.

The plane left Lima at 12:42 a.m. and the pilot reported mechanical failure about five minutes later, the statement said. All con-

tact was lost at 1:10 a.m.

The plane carried 61 passengers and nine crew members, the airline said, although the 757 has a 180-person capacity.

Before dawn, fire officials lined up ambulances, fire trucks, gasoline-powered generators and reflectors on the dark beach so any survivors would have bright lights to swim toward.

Navy and fire department boats were searching the area. The waters in the area are in the cold Humboldt current that flows up the South American coast from Antarctica.

Jesus Herrera, a fisherman who lives in a wooden shack 12 metres from shore, said he heard a rumble during the night. Ten minutes later, his shack was flooded with a surge of water.

Asians view Afghan events with caution

HONG KONG (R) — Fundamentalist rule in Afghanistan has raised human rights concerns in Asia and the Pacific region, but most governments on Wednesday were reluctant to take a position on ties with a Taliban government.

"At the moment we have a wait-and-see type of an attitude, keeping a close eye on things like human rights," an Australian government source told Reuters.

The Taliban militia, which captured the capital of Kabul on Sept. 27, shocked the world when they executed a former president, banned women from workplaces, and imposed other Islamic strictures on Afghan society.

In Dhaka, a Bangladeshi government source said, "we want good friendly ties with Kabul but don't want to rush as realities under the Taliban authority are still not clear."

Ishlaq Hossain, political science lecturer at National University of Singapore, said ASEAN governments "would be wary about some extreme form of Islam that the Taliban practice".

Asia is home to a variety of sectarian strife, and the fall of Kabul raised fears other militant groups in the region might be emboldened into copycat violence.

India has been most apprehensive and charged that the Taliban movement receives support from New Delhi's arch foe Pakistan. Jammu and Kashmir state, Hindu India's only majority province, has been the scene of a separatist revolt since 1990.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of aiding the separatist rebellion in Kashmir.

Pakistan, in a departure from the general trend of caution, has indicated it will

recognise a Taliban government.

New Delhi's good relations with Afghan ex-president Najibullah, who was slain by the Taliban, and the presence of Afghan refugees opposed to Taliban in India, suggest India will be reluctant to welcome Afghanistan's new leaders.

Officially, India maintains it is closely watching a fluid situation.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral was quoted in Chicago by Asian News International as saying Taliban's hold over Afghanistan was uncertain.

"What is happening now could well be the beginning of a new civil war in Afghanistan."

"The way things are moving the Afghan crisis could affect all of Central Asia, Iran, Pakistan and even the U.S. would not remain unaffected," Mr. Gujral was quoted as saying.

Pakistan already signalled it will recognise the Taliban administration by declaring it would do business with the "new government".

Foreign Minister Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday, "historically, Pakistan has always recognised the Kabul regime as de facto government of Afghanistan and have extended friendship and cooperation to the government in Kabul."

Vietnam said on Wednesday it was following the situation in Afghanistan with "deep concern".

A foreign ministry spokesman said Vietnam joined with the world community in hoping the fighting would soon be ended and peace restored "so that the people of Afghanistan would have the conditions to develop and build their country".



SILENT SUPPORT: Palestinians stop at mid-day on Wednesday to observe five minutes of silence to show their support for President Yasser Arafat and mourn the Palestinians who were killed in the last wave of clashes with Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip and West Bank (Reuters photo)

Clerides, Simitis affirm commitment to peaceful settlement in Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — The governments of Greece and Cyprus on Wednesday said they were committed to a peaceful solution to the problem of Cyprus's division but said any further advance of Turkey in the island would be a cause of war.

A joint communique said acceptance by Turkey of Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides's proposal for demilitarisation could ensure "peace and stability in Cyprus and the region".

"It was once again made clear that a further advance of Turkey in Cyprus is a cause of war. Demilitarisation of Cyprus can ensure peace and stability on the island and the region," said Cypriot government spokesman Yiannakis Casoulides.

The two governments issued the statement after talks between Mr. Clerides and Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis, who was on a two-day visit to the island.

Greece has a defence pact with Cyprus, divided since a Turkish invasion in 1974 sparked by a brief Greek Cypriot coup engineered by the military regime ruling in Athens at the time.

The defence pact means Greece will come to Cyprus's aid in the event of any Turkish advance further south in Cyprus.

Mr. Simitis and other Greek officials held "wide-ranging discussions" on the Cyprus problem with Mr. Clerides and the Cypriot delegation. Mr. Casoulides added.

"Today's phase (of the Cyprus problem) is especially crucial and requires delicate and careful handling," he told reporters.

The communique did not signify any change in the position of Greece or Cyprus on the dispute.

Turkey maintains some 30,000 troops in the north of Cyprus, declared a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in 1983 but recognised only by Ankara.

The protracted dispute has drawn a small army of mediators from the United Nations and other interested countries, but no one has been able to find mutually acceptable terms for the island's reunification as a bicomunal bizonal federation.

Shortly before the meeting started, Mr. Clerides awarded Mr. Simitis with the Archbishop Makarios III Cross, the highest distinction of the state.

Hundreds of people cheered Mr. Simitis at Nicosia town hall at noon where during a ceremony he was made honorary citizen of the capital and given the golden key to the city.

'Dead' Iraqi general seeks to sue over his 'obituary'

BAGHDAD (AP) — A retired army general has asked President Saddam Hussein to let him sue foreign radio stations for alleging he was executed after a failed coup attempt against the Iraqi leader, newspapers said Wednesday.

In a telegram to President Saddam, published on the front-pages of Iraqi newspapers, retired general Abid Mutlak Humood Al Jubouri said he was shocked to hear himself named on the radio broadcasts as one of the coup plotters.

Mr. Jubouri said "he was listening to a foreign radio programme Aug. 13," when he heard that a number of army officers have been executed in Iraq.

"To my shock, my name was on top of the list," Mr. Jubouri said in his telegram to President Saddam, which he signed: "Your soldier, who believes in your leadership."

Mr. Jubouri, who was decorated for his efforts in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, asked President Saddam if he could file suit for "the damage they had done to me, my family and brothers," the papers said, quoting from the telegram.

One of the radio stations "belongs to a country which claims to be free and a human rights protector," the telegram declared, without identifying the country or any of the stations.

On Aug. 12, the exiled Iraqi dissident group Al Wifaq Al Watani, or National Accord movement, said 120 Iraqi army officers — including Mr. Jubouri — were shot by firing squads in Iraq after a failed coup attempt against President Saddam.

The report did not say when the failed coup plot was uncovered. A spokesman for the movement, Haroun Mohammad, said Wednesday from Amman that the group stood by its previous report.

He alleged that the telegram was a fake and said Mr. Jubouri should appear on television to prove he was still alive.

There were numerous unconfirmed reports that a coup plot was uncovered in the run-up to the July 17 celebrations which marked the 17th anniversary of President Saddam's rise to power.

A number of other failed attempts to oust President Saddam have been also reported since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

There was no way to independently confirm any of the reports made by Iraqi opposition groups in exile.

The Baghdad papers did not say whether President Saddam had granted Mr. Jubouri's request, or in what court or country the general sought to file suit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq, Iran envoys attend Bahraini council

MANAMA (R) — An Iraqi diplomat attended the opening of Bahrain's new Shura council in the first official appearance by a Baghdad envoy in the emirate since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, sources close to the council said on Wednesday. They said the attendance of Iraqi charge d'affaires Ahmad Al Taef at the recently-appointed council's opening session on Tuesday indicated warming relations between Baghdad and Manama. "It is the first time an Iraqi official has attended an official ceremony in Bahrain in six years," one source, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters. Baghdad's relations with Gulf Arab states were soured by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Iran's charge d'affaires Sayyed Mohammad Ahmadi also attended the Shura meeting, which was formally opened by the emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, the sources said. Bahrain in June accused the Islamic Republic of supporting a Shi'ite Muslim-led plot to topple the government by force. It expelled an Iranian diplomat and downgraded relations.

Suspected militants kill 3 in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected militants on Wednesday shot to death two men sitting at a cafe in a southern village, the Interior Ministry said. A village guard who gave chase was also shot and died of his wounds. The incident happened in Tanda near Malawi, a hotbed for extremists 220 kilometres south of Cairo, the ministry said in a written statement. The victims were identified as farmer Samir Taha, his friend Abdel Badie Gomaa, a former village guard, and present guard Fatouh Abdel Aliem. The guards work under village leaders but are paid by the government. More than a 1,000 people have been killed since militants opened a campaign in 1992 to replace Egypt's secular government with religious rule. Most of the dead have been militants and police.

Israeli embassy in Bonn boosts security

BONN (R) — Security precautions at the Israeli embassy in Germany were stepped up on Tuesday, a Bonn police spokeswoman said. The spokeswoman said police had information about a possible threat to embassy security but declined to go into detail or to specify what additional measures had been taken.

Turkish prisoners protest at riot deaths

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish inmates protesting the death of 11 prisoners in a jail riot in southeast Turkey have set up barricades in their own prison, a pro-Kurdish party said on Wednesday. "Inmates set up barricades yesterday evening and their protest is continuing," Mehmet Sah, a representative for the People's Democracy Party (HADEP) in the western town of Canakkale, told Reuters. He said members of the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), who four days ago began a limited hunger strike, have decided to continue the strike indefinitely in Canakkale prison. They were protesting at the death of fellow PKK members during a riot in high-security Diyarbakir prison last week, which has prompted an investigation by the justice ministry. The Canakkale protest, initially led by PKK members, has been joined by around 80 other inmates, Mr. Sah said. The provincial governor, human rights organisations and lawyers visited the prison on Tuesday evening, he said.

U.N. groups suspend Mogadishu operations

NAIROBI (R) — U.N. aid agencies, protesting against the kidnap of a local aid worker last month, on Wednesday suspended relief operations in the Somali capital, officials said. The suspension of relief activities in Mogadishu came after the Somali Aid Coordination Body (SACB), which groups aid agencies and donors, recommended the closure on Monday. Other aid groups outside the U.N. system said they would also halt operations but gave no details.

Arab women to present sculpture to U.N.

NEW YORK (UNIS) — A gift from Arab women to the United Nations and the world's women — a sculpture symbolising "Sisterhood Solidarity" — will be presented to Secretary-General Boutros Ghali at 12:30 p.m. ceremony on Thursday. The sculpture will be the first gift from women of any country or region to the United Nations since the organisation was established. It is also a symbolic gift to the women of the world from women of Arab countries that are members of the Arab League — Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. The sculpture, which was financed by private individuals from Arab countries, is of brushed stainless steel, that sits on a pink marble base.

Primakov to visit Israel

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov will visit Israel during a Middle East tour in about a month and will discuss a possible visit to Moscow by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Interfax news agency said.

Interfax quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk as saying on Tuesday that the need for Mr. Primakov's visit to the region, planned in for the end of October or early November, was all the greater following last week's violence in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem.

There has been no official announcement of the visit and ministry officials were not available for immediate comment.

"Russia's co-sponsorship in the Middle East peace process is precisely an obligation to render help in such situations as last week's," Mr. Posuvalyuk said.

The United States, the other co-sponsor of the peace process, has organised a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Washington on Tuesday.

Russian officials have played down the importance of the Washington meeting saying it was limited in its decisions by a U.N. Security Council vote at the weekend.

A vote in the United Nations Security Council on Saturday called for the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians to be ensured. The United States abstained.

"The meeting can be positive if it is held in the framework of the U.N. Security Council's resolution," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a news briefing.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 Jimmy Quest
15:30 NBA Basketball
16:30 Take Your Pick
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Cinque
17:30 Show — Surprise Sur
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
19:30 News Headlines
19:33 Comedy — Here's Lucy
20:00 Doc. — People Count
20:30 Challenges
21:10 Star Trek — The Next Generation
22:00 News in English
22:25 Feature Film: Race Against Time
23:59 Comedy — Family Matters

PRAYER TIMES

04:09 Fajr
05:26 (Sunrise) Duha
11:25 Dhuhr
14:47 Asr
17:25 Maghreb
18:41 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
623366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751
Amman International Church
Tel. 827126
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Ibrahim 847351
Dr. Arafat Al Khadim 602507
Dr. Abbas Al Ashhab 885446
Dr. Ayman Al Mahdhab 875748
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637060
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ya'qub Al Khadib 991772
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department
661111
Civil Defence Immediate Resc
..... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111,

Jordan Valley 24/26

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 35, Aqaba 36 Humidity
readings: Amman 19 per cent,
Aqaba 45 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamal Ibrahim 847351
Dr. Arafat Al Khadim 602507
Dr. Abbas Al Ashhab 885446
Dr. Ayman Al Mahdhab 875748
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637060
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ya'qub Al Khadib 991772
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department
661111
Civil Defence Immediate Resc
..... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111,

637777

Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department
630321

Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Com
plaints 897467
Amman Municipality Com
plaints 787111
Telephone Information (direc
tory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs
661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority
..... 815615
Electric Power Company
..... 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-
53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-
53200

RJ Flight Information 08-
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Electric Power Company
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Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-
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Electric Power Company
..... 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-
53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-
53200

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital
..... 667227/4

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen
..... 777101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital
..... 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart
and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital
..... 09983323
Zarqa National Hospital
..... 09900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
..... 09990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
..... 02127555
Greek Catholic Hospital
..... 02127275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
..... 021247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
..... 03131411

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) informa-

tion department at the Queen

Alia International Airport Tel.
0853200 where it should
always be verified.

Information on other flights are
supplied on phone 08(52700) or
08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

05:35 Beirut (RJ)
06:15 Moscow (RJ)
11:00 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, Montreal,
Toronto (RJ)

11:15 Rome (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
12:10 Paris (RJ)
12:20 London (RJ)
12:25 Athens (RJ)
19:35 Larnaca (RJ)
20:10 Cairo (RJ)
20:20 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights

13:00 Riyadh (SV)
13:40 Sharjah (AH)
19:35 Cairo (MS)
20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
20:40 Tel Aviv (LY)
22:20 Istanbul (TK)
22:40 Amsterdam (KL)
23:25 London (RJ)
02:00 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:00 Aqaba (RW)
19:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv)
(RW)

18:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:15 Sanaa (RJ)
09:05 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:20 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 New Delhi (RJ)
09:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
16:30 Moscow (RJ)
16:30 Casablanca (RJ)
16:30 London (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00 Bangkok, Culcuta (RJ)
18:15 Athens (RJ)
19:25 Rome (RJ)
19:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
20:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
23:15 Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights

06:45 Beirut, London (BA)
07:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Algiers (AH)
20:25 Cairo (MS)
21:15 Damascus, Paris (AF)
22:55 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
05:00 Istanbul (TK)
05:40 London (RJ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:00 Aqaba (RW)
19:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv)
(RW)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every

Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every
Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m.
every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every
Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 550/500
Banana (mukhammar) 470/470
Banana (imported) 120/80
Cabbage 120/80
Carrot 280/140
Cauliflower 380/180
Cucumber (large) 140/90
Cucumber (small) 260/150
Eggplant 230/130
Garlic 700/450
Grapes 530/350
Guava 630/350
Lemon 380/250
Marrow (large) 200/150
Marrow (small) 400/250
Mulukiah 140/80
Onion (green) 400/280
Onion (dry) 140/80
Okra 1000/600
Pepper (hot) 580/400
Pepper (sweet) 380/200
Pomegranate 400/250
Potato 360/200
Spinach 300/180
String Bean 780/400
Tomato 230/130

Home News

Princess Haya tours schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Wednesday visited a number of Ministry of Education and military education schools and kindergartens.

She also visited Queen Alia School and Kindergarten for Girls and toured its classes, library, computer facilities, video halls and laboratories.

The Princess then arrived at Al Hussein Secondary School for Girls and toured halls of folkloric arts, a computer section and its so-called Hashemite Hall.

Princess Haya was received by the military education director and



At the end of the visit, she was presented with a symbolic gift.



PRINCESS BASMA OPENS WORKSHOP — HRH Princess Basma Wednesday opened a four-day workshop on women's involvement and participation in decision-making. She called for joint efforts between non-governmental and other organisations to upgrade women's status. President of the GFJW Nujoud Fawzi stressed that women's issues are inseparable from the society in general, and that progress for one leads to progress for all. The workshop was organised by the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), the Jordanian Women Union (JWU) and the Jordanian National Committee For Women (JNCW) in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute for Foreign Affairs (Petra photo)

Cystic fibrosis cases not alarming, say Irbid doctors

Tanya Habjouqa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An estimated 100 cases of cystic fibrosis have been recently diagnosed in Irbid and doctors at the Princess Rahma Hospital are entertaining theories as to what might be the cause.

Doctors claim that these figures can be attributed to new technology which allows them diagnostic advantage and further stated that there is no cause for alarm as the disease is not contagious.

Cystic fibrosis is a hereditary disorder where in a defect in the glands produces an excessive and viscous mucus which blocks body cavities and clogs the intestinal tract at birth.

The disease is primarily detected in young children and while most die by the age of 10, a few live to the

age of 30. "Cystic fibrosis is a fatal disease for which there is no cure," said Dr. Faisal Ekteish, assistant professor of paediatrics at the Princess Rahma Hospital in Irbid.

Though this disease was thought uncommon in Jordan, we did not have the technology to test for it until this last year, he said. The hospital has acquired new technology to measure levels of sodium and chloride in the exocrine (sweat) glands which can indicate presence of the disease, he said.

Dr. Ekteish also speculated that the relatively high number of recently diagnosed cases could be attributed to the high incidence of marriages between first cousins and other close relatives.

As a hereditary disease, it is carried in a recessive

gene and transferred to offspring.

Western technology is perfecting a method to test for the presence of cystic fibrosis during the first two months of pregnancy, and if discovered, people (in Western countries) could elect to terminate the pregnancy, he said.

Such technology should be available in Jordan sometime in the future, added Dr. Ekteish.

Laws proposed in 1994, suggested mandatory blood testing before marriage in Jordan.

If the results showed that a couple ran the risk of having children with genetic defects the couple would be so-advised but not prohibited from marrying.

The issue has not been resolved.

Accused deny illicit intent in subversion case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three men accused of subversion Wednesday pleaded guilty at the State Security Court to illegal possession of explosives but denied charges that they intended to use them.

Kremah Mahmoud, 28, Yousef Ahmad, 27 and Ali Mahmoud, 27, are charged by military prosecution with plotting to carry out extremist attacks and possessing illegal explosives with illicit intent.

On Sept. 18, the three defendants pleaded not guilty to all charges, but in Wednesday's session the three informed the court of their intention to enter a plea of guilty to only the illegal possession charge. According to their eight-

defence attorney team, the new plea will "hopefully be a factor in sentence reduction."

Capital punishment is the maximum penalty for illicit possession of illegal explosives with intention of use.

The prosecution alleges that the three men collected landmines from a field in Ajloun in Nov. of 1995 and planned to target Israeli tourists who visited the area.

The three were apprehended by authorities before any attack was carried out.

Defence attorneys contested the court's jurisdiction over this case and protested at the manner of interrogation used by authorities.

"Our clients were detained by security forces for three months

and questioned without benefit of legal counsel," the attorneys told the Military Court tribunal.

Presiding Judge Yousef Faouri rejected the defence plea on the grounds that it was too early to consider such an objection.

"The Court will study these points upon completion of the trial when we commence reviewing the case," Judge Faouri said.

Military Prosecutor Mahmoud Obeidar presented the court with the file case and asked the court to subpoena nine security officers to testify for the prosecution.

The court set Oct. 23 to start hearing prosecution witnesses.

Leftists reject one-person, one-vote system but leave room for compromise

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — While the debate over Jordan's controversial election law intensifies and the government stiffens its stand in favour of the one-person, one-vote system, Jordan's leftist parties agree with the Islamists in rejecting the current formula and accuse the cabinet of not exerting enough effort to stage a "democratic debate" about a new electoral law that is supposed to govern the next general elections.

Though considering a variety of different alternatives to the present legislation, the leaders of the main leftist parties are united in claiming that the 1993 election law favours tribalism and clientelism at the expense of the country's national unity.

Government sources have said that the Cabinet, though open to opposition suggestions, will not compromise on the one-person, one-vote system, and the leftists, fully aware of the government's reluctance to abandon the current formula, are trying to find some room for compromise.

"If the government wants to maintain the current one-person, one-vote system, at least the number of districts should be equal to the number of the deputies in the Lower House of Parliament," Socialist Democratic Party (SDP) Secretary General Issa Madanat told the Jordan Times.

"The regime is afraid of being overwhelmed by the Islamists [should the one-district formula be applied] but we are sure that the percentage of votes for the Islamists would remain between 15 and 20 per cent, as it is now," Mr. Madanat continued.

If, as at the moment, there are 80 seats in the Lower House, there should also be 80 electoral districts, Mr. Madanat said.

Together with this first option, the SDP is working on alternatives, such as the creation of one single national electoral district to cover the entire Kingdom.

"The composition of a parliament elected in this way [with a single national district] would truthfully reflect the real balance of political trends in the country," Dr. Madanat said.

As is the case with the

Israeli electoral system, Mr. Madanat envisages a parliament in which the percentage of seats allocated to each party or coalition would reflect the percentage of votes obtained from the voters.

The introduction of the one-district formula is also supported by the Jordan Communist Party (JCP) and JCP Secretary General Yacoub Ziadeen defined it as "very democratic."

Deputy and member of the Arab Baath Socialist Party (ABSP) Khalil Haddadin proposes the introduction of two vote preferences: One for the candidate of the voter's district, and the other one for a candidate in another district.

"In this way, people can still vote for the candidate of their tribe, but are also given the possibility to express another predilection for the candidate that they consider more appropriate from a political point of view," Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times.

Stressing the need for a law to "increase the role of political parties in the country's political life," Mr. Haddadin accused the government of "a lack of real

willingness to dialogue with the opposition and compromise on a draft election law."

The new election law was one of the main points in the political programme presented by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, when his Cabinet took office early this year.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher announced Monday that the government was seeking "a broad consensus (on a new election law)" and was "continuing consultations with all parties," but both the Islamic Action Front (IAF) Secretary General Ishaq Farhan and Mr. Haddadin denied having been approached by the government on the issue of a new election law.

The JCP, clandestine for more than 40 years and legally reinstated in 1989, and the SDP say they would consider a return to the 1989 election law as a desirable alternative to the current one.

The 1989 election law gave voters the possibility to express a number of preferences equal to the number of seats to be covered in the district.

"Going back to the 1989 law would be by far our best choice," Mr. Madanat said, adding, nonetheless, that "some adjustments to the old law would be necessary."

"The districts should be redrawn," Dr. Zayaddin echoed, "taking into consideration the number of voters in each district and the density of the population therein."

According to the present law and the 1995 Department of Statistics bulletin, Amman's six electoral districts elect 21 deputies in the 80-member Parliament, but hold 38 per cent of the country's population. For the number of deputies to be proportional to the population of the districts in which they are elected, the governorate of Amman should have more than 30 representatives in Parliament.

The districts of Madaba, Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an are reserved, according to the present legislation, 20 seats, but hold only 9.56 per cent of the Kingdom's total population.

Death sentence commuted in murder case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Royal Decree issued last week, commuted the death sentence of a 39-year-old man for the premeditated murder of his secretary, judicial sources said Wednesday.

Mustafa A.H., a merchant, was declared guilty by the Criminal Court on Feb. 27, 1996 for the premeditated murder of his 22-year-old secretary Maysoun Tawfiq on Oct. 23, 1994 in Damascus.

In July, a panel of five justices at the Court of Cassation unanimously ratified the Criminal Court's ruling.

The victim was reported missing by her family after she failed to return home or report to work, the prosecution charge sheet said.

Authorities subsequently received a tip that Ms. Tawfiq was in Syria and, upon consultation with border police, records demonstrated that the two had jointly entered Syria.

When confronted with

the evidence, the convict admitted to having had a relationship with Ms. Tawfiq, the charge sheet said.

The prosecution charged that Mustafa lured the woman to Damascus on pretence of marriage, but with intent to kill.

Seventeen people, including two tried in absentia, have been sentenced to death since the beginning of the year.

The Court of Cassation, which reviews cases handled by the Criminal Court, upheld four death sentences and commuted four more this year.

Last week, a Royal Decree was issued commuting death sentences passed on nine people and sentencing them to life imprisonment instead.

A total of 11 people, known as the "Arab Afghans," were convicted, by the State Security Court in 1994, of terrorist attacks.

Seven people have been executed since the beginning of the year.

JPA member claims abuse of funds

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Jordan Pharmaceutical Association (JPA) Wednesday accepted the resignation of board member Malak Anabawi.

President of the JPA Abdul Rahim Issa, however, rejected the reason she cited for her resignation as "groundless and inaccurate."

Ms. Anabawi submitted her resignation as well as a letter of general complaint on Sept. 23, 1996, following a board meeting in which the members argued over financial matters. She charged fund abuses and extravagant spending from within the association.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday she stated that she submitted her resignation over a check which indicated about JD1,500 extra in the safe.

After tracing the source of the money, Ms. Anabawi maintained, it was discovered that it did

not belong to the JPA, and that later investigations proved that the money was the personal property of the treasurer of the JPA.

"According to the associations' law, any extra money must stay within the union, but to my surprise the board decided to return the money to the treasurer," Ms. Anabawi said.

But according to Dr. Issa, the treasurer informed the board, after the extra money was discovered, that he placed the money in the JPA safe as his house had been robbed.

"An accounting company examined our accounts and determined that this money didn't belong to the union so we gave it back to the treasurer, and informed him of his resultant dismissal."

Moreover, Ms. Anabawi charged that the union invested a large sum of money in buying a piece of land which should have brought profit to the union, "but they bought the land without approval

of the board, nor a complete study thereof. The JPA member rights were violated."

"The land the union purchased is not profitable, as they claim, and the union bought it without approval of the board members," she charged.

In reply Dr. Issa said that he was not in agreement with the land purchase but, rather, was obligated to approve the decision as a majority of the board members had voted in favour of the land purchase.

Dr. Issa was elected as president of the JPA, along with Ms. Anabawi, on April 15, 1995. The JPA has 4,200 registered members.

"I challenge anyone to prove that I took any decision without the board's approval," Dr. Issa said.

A JPA member Wednesday told the Jordan Times that the association has called on pharmacist Abdul Nasser Musa to replace Ms. Anabawi.

Aqaba partakes in 'sustainable development' programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) is currently instituting a tourism development plan in the Aqaba region to attract a projected annual 200,000 tourists by the year 2000, ARA President Fayez Khasawneh outlined Wednesday.

In a seminar concerning the development of the port city, organised by the Friedrich Numan Foundation (FNF) and the Jordanian Environment Society (JES), Dr. Khasawneh submitted a report stating that the development of a tourist plan in Aqaba is designed to enhance the city as a real attraction site as well as a gate for tourism.

The plan envisages the development of the Aqaba coast lands and beaches for recreation activities, he said emphasising the purity of the water and moderate winter climate.

Dr. Khasawneh said that a JD 50 million project to construct two major hotels with 500 rooms has already been approved has a conference centre, golf courses, diving and yachting centres.

He reported that the Aqaba hotels currently total a 1,800 room capacity which, he said is insufficient to cater to the needs of the grow-

ing number of tourists visiting the resort city.

ARA is taking care to design and execute projects, with safety and the environment in mind, Dr. Khasawneh added.

FNF Representative in Jordan Walter Rudel addressed the meeting emphasising the urgent importance of a sustainable development which conforms to environmental protection measures.

Dr. Rudel said that in the peace era Aqaba is expected to host numerous economic and industrial activities and would have to undertake extraordinary measures to preserve its unique environment especially as the port city is witnessing the construction of a petroleum refinery, a new regional airport and growing number of hotels and factories.

ARA engineer, Mohammad Arabiyat outlined the main features of the Aqaba development confirming that infrastructure work on housing units and other projects included in the plan have already begun and that the preliminary implementation of the plan started in 1995.

Crime rate dropped in September — PSD

AMMAN (Petra) — The crime rate in Jordan dropped last month by nearly 8 per cent compared to statistical analysis of the previous month while official resolution of crime cases rose to nearly 82 per cent, the criminal investigation unit at the Public Security Department (PSD) stated Wednesday.

The department released a bulletin affirming that the total number of crime reported during September was 970 of which almost 75 per cent involved some kind of juvenile delinquency.

The total number of crimes reported last August was 1,049, according to the bulletin. It reported that thefts constituted 23 per cent of the total, while crimes committed while intoxicated consti-

tuted 8 per cent of the total crimes.

The bulletin maintained that most of the crimes committed during the past month fell into the Greater Amman region which registered almost 32 per cent of the crimes, followed by Irbid with nearly 18 per cent, and Zarqa with 11.5 per cent.

There were two murder cases and nine cases of attempted murder.

August had reported 17 murder cases.

Altogether, the bulletin stated, 134 people were arrested including 13 foreigners.

A little over 45 per cent of the reported thefts occurred in residences and nearly 30 per cent at commercial establishments.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* Spanish film "Huevos de Oro" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

ANNUAL BAZAAR

* A one-day annual bazaar of Mabarrat Um Al Hussein Orphanage on Thursday at Greater Amman Hall at Al Hussein Sports City (11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) Forty five Arab and foreign countries are taking part. Products of these countries will be displayed for sale.

Der Botschafter der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

lädt

Deutsche mit ständigem Wohnsitz in Jordanien

zu einem Empfang anlässlich des Tages der Deutschen Einheit

am Samstag, dem 5. Oktober 1996, von 19.00 - 21.00 Uhr

im Hotel Inter-Continental, Ballroom, ein.

U.K. Labour conference wrestles with issue of pension reform

BLACKPOOL, England (AFP) — The British Labour Party, riding a crest of enthusiasm after leader Tony Blair's tub-thumping keynote speech, Wednesday wrestled with policy on the thorny question of government pension indexing.

Mr. Blair, heavily favoured to win elections which must be held within seven months, Tuesday pledged to a Labour conference here a new relationship with Europe and broad domestic reform in education, crime, taxes and health care.

His tenor at this critical conference has been to move Labour toward the electoral centre and shake

off its persistent image as political wing of the trade unions.

But the complex issue of indexing state pensions had centre stage Wednesday with a heated debate developing between party leaders favouring indexing to inflation, and a left-wing challenge for indexing to average earnings.

The latter, carrying an estimated price tag of £3.5 billion (\$5.4 billion), had threatened to destabilise the conference because it had support from trade unions which Mr. Blair has angered in recent weeks.

But two of the largest unions, the TGWU General

Union and the Unison Civil Service Union, threw their support to Labour late Tuesday, easing the threat of an embarrassing defeat for Mr. Blair, after the compromise promise delaying any pensions decision.

Smaller unions were already with the party on pensions.

Leaders and delegates of the two big unions agreed to back Mr. Blair's commitment that a Labour government, after election, would create a commission to "urgently" review the future of state pensions.

They agreed to withdraw their support from the motion from Barbara

Castle, 85-year-old doyenne of the party's left wing, for indexing pensions to average earnings.

Despite Labour reforms reducing the unions' influence on the party they created as their mouthpiece a century ago, they still have 50 per cent of the conference vote, while constituency delegates hold the other half.

In his speech Tuesday, Mr. Blair declared that his Labour government, like Labour governments of years past, would "do what is right" for retired people.

But he warned that Labour would make no money promises until it was sure about keeping them, which would be only after it was in government.

The compromise on pensions drew sighs of relief among Labour officials, since a defeat would have been singled out by the Tories and the press as a sign of disunity and fraying party discipline which Mr. Blair could ill afford.

Mr. Blair, seeking to end 18 years of conservative rule, Tuesday attacked the Tories as "feckless, irresponsible and incompetent," and pledged that Labour would be the party of "sound finance and good house-keeping."

He promised a "tax regime that is fair and encourages work and business," and said he would "try to get tax down for low income earners."

A Labour government would be one of "fairness, not favours, for employers and employees alike."

Mr. Blair reiterated his call for a national minimum wage, a ban on private handgun ownership, a "crackdown" on crime and educational reform to make Britain an "achievement superpower."

The top three priorities of a Labour government, said Mr. Blair: "Education, education and education."



Labour leader Tony Blair waves to delegates following his keynote speech at the Labour Party Conference Tuesday. Mr. Blair called for unity in the run-up to the next general election (Reuters photo)

Suu Kyi slams junta over 'illegal' crackdown

RANGOON (Agencies) — Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi came out from behind police barricades Wednesday to rebuke the government for "illegal" actions against her pro-democracy movement, saying almost 800 of her supporters were detained in the crackdown.

It was the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's first meeting with foreign reporters since armed riot police blocked off access to her home last Friday to prevent the National League for Democracy (NLD) from holding a nationwide party congress.

She disputed a government announcement Tuesday that 159 party delegates had been taken in for questioning prior to the planned congress and that local police had picked up another 400 or so activists after that.

"We think it is nearer 800," Ms. Suu Kyi said.

"They (authorities) are the ones who have violated the law," she told reporters gathered at the home of another NLD leader, Kyi Maung.

Journalists were filmed and photographed by military intelligence officers as they entered and left the house, but there was no attempt to stop the news conference.

Ms. Suu Kyi said NLD leaders reserved the right to call another party congress without requesting permission from the authorities at some time in the future, as this was the normal work of a political party.

"Perhaps I will have to go around the country holding small party congresses everywhere," she said.

Asked about the NLD's mild-mannered response to the junta's actions, Ms. Suu Kyi said: "Do you not think it's enough that some people get arrested for their beliefs? Do you want us to

die in the streets?

"I find it very irresponsible that people want to see bloodshed and violence before they accept that something is very, very wrong in a country," she said.

The NLD would wait "until the time is right," she said. "I'm confident that we will get democracy and I hope that SLORC will be involved in that process because that will be best for everyone," she added.

SLORC refers to the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the official name of the ruling junta.

Dressed in a dark blue longyi and lighter blue top and wearing a purple orchid in her hair, Ms. Suu Kyi claimed that the past few days had given her a chance to rest and enjoy her garden.

Riot police roadblocks prevented the public from reaching the gate to her compound where she has appeared each Saturday and Sunday since release from house arrest in July 1995 to speak to supporters.

Ms. Suu Kyi denied government allegations that she and the NLD were in collusion with foreign powers, or that foreign diplomats had helped orchestrate NLD actions.

"We do not do these things in consultation with any foreign party," she said, noting there was no law limiting the number of meetings anyone could have with diplomats.

To support her contention that the government had acted illegally, she cited sections 339 and 340 of the penal code against unlawful restraint and confinement, and the forced closing and removal of party signboards at the Rangoon headquarters of "a duly registered political party."

She said that SLORC actions were no hindrance to the NLD's work.

China accuses U.S., Japan of destabilising Asia

BEIJING (R) — China said Wednesday it posed no danger to world peace and accused the United States and Japan of destabilising the Asia-Pacific region and using Beijing as a whipping-boy.

The United States and Japan had promoted the "China threat" theory to try to maintain their positions as military and economic superpowers, the official China Daily said.

"To maintain its position as the strongest country in the world after the cold war, the United States wants to prevent the rise of any powerful country in Europe or Asia," a commentary in the newspaper said.

"The United States has tried its best to contain China and to hinder its reunification and march to prosperity," it said.

Beijing harbours deep suspicions that Washington, seeking to shore up its position as the world's lone superpower, advocates a policy of containing China's economic and military development.

Washington maintains it is pursuing a policy of engagement with Beijing but some U.S. officials have said China's potential economic power and military build-up could endanger regional stability in the future.

The commentary said China had pledged itself to policies of peace and had never sent troops abroad nor set up military bases in other nations.

"It (China) has not signed military pacts with any other country, let alone staged military manoeuvres to harass any country's border, air or sea space," it said.

The commentary accused Washington of often wielding its military clout to resolve diplomatic disputes by resorting to bombings, direct military occupation and economic sanctions.

"Aren't such acts of hegemonism a threat to world peace?" the commentary asked.

Beijing voiced strong displeasure with U.S. Cruise missile strikes against Iraq last month, saying the action infringed on Baghdad's territorial sovereignty.

In March, China staged live missile tests off the coast of arch-rival Taiwan, which Beijing considers a rebel province, to try to intimidate Taipei before the island's first direct presidential elections.

Washington responded by sending a naval battle group to the Taiwan Strait to monitor activities there, a move that drew angry condemnation from Beijing as interference in China's internal affairs.

The commentary charged Japan had taken advantage of the "China threat" theory to divert attention away from its own militaristic ambitions in Asia.

"Japan has never given up its efforts to regain its status as a military power," the commentary warned.

It slammed a joint security declaration signed by Washington and Tokyo last April, saying the pact had only destabilised the Asia-Pacific region.

"The declaration, instead of doing any good to the status quo, has created disorder and instability in the region," it said.

The commentary was flanked by a cartoon depicting Japan as a shark feeding from a pail labelled "Japan-U.S. Joint Declaration on Security."

China, which suffered bitterly at the hands of Japan's Imperial Army during World War II, has been alarmed at what it sees as signs of increasing militarism in Japan.

Beijing and Tokyo have been engaged recently in an ownership dispute over a group of islands in the East China Sea.



Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten reacts during a news conference after delivering his fifth and final annual policy address to the Legislative Council in Hong Kong Wednesday, before the British colony reverts to China at midnight on June 30, 1997. At background is a photographic mural of Hong Kong island showing the territory's highest building, the 70-storey Central Plaza (Reuters photo)

Hong Kong's Patten gives 'feel good' policy address

HONG KONG (R) — Britain's last governor of Hong Kong, in his Swan song annual policy speech, pledged full steam ahead Wednesday in the countdown to the handover to China.

"Our motto is not steady as she goes, but full steam ahead," Chris Patten said in his valedictory address in which he painted a rosy outlook for the community of six million people.

Mr. Patten, who took up his post as 28th governor in 1992, said it was impossible to simply close down the colonial administration for the next nine months.

Hong Kong, a British colony for more than a century and a half, reverts to China on June 30, 1997, now 272 days away.

Some sectors of Hong Kong's business community have urged the outgoing British to refrain from introducing initiatives to avoid any risk of annoying China in the delicate transition period, proposals Mr. Patten rejected.

"Anyone who thinks the Hong Kong government is going to take the afternoon off, anyone who thinks we're going, as some have advised, to tiptoe meekly through the next few months, should just open either this document or this..." he said.

Defiantly, he brandished an ambitious package of measures to improve the

quality of life, often overlooked in the headlong rush for prosperity.

Mr. Patten spoke admiringly of the contribution by those who "walked, swam and climbed over barbed wire" from China in search of a better life — who made Hong Kong what it was today.

He trenchantly defended the British administration of the colony and attacked China's plans to dismantle the limited democratic reforms he spearheaded in the face of Beijing's fury.

"Britain has made clear repeatedly to Chinese leaders that it would be wrong and damaging to scrap this (Legislative) Council and replace it with a non-elected body," he said.

"This remains our unshakable position... I sincerely hope that even at this late stage, this bad idea can be thought about again."

He reserved special venom for those he said were going to give away any part of Hong Kong's promised autonomy.

In the 1984 Sino-British treaty governing the handover, China pledged to permit Hong Kong considerable autonomy in running its affairs to maintain its capitalist way of life for 50 years.

"We all know that over the last couple of years we have seen decisions, taken in good faith by the government of Hong Kong, ap-

pealed surreptitiously to Peking... lobbied against behind closed doors by those whose personal interests may have been adversely affected," he said.

This damaged Hong Kong's autonomy by inviting Chinese cadres to interfere in matters which did not concern them, he said.

He dismissed views that Hong Kong people cared only about making money and not about human rights, and said the world would be watching to see how China succeeded in maintaining and building on Hong Kong's success.

"Next year, when my successor takes the oath of office, it will be a solemn moment, freighted with hopes and anxieties."

"It will be an exciting moment, too — an especially challenging one for China."

He laid down a series of benchmarks by which, he said, the world would judge. Would Hong Kong, he said, be seen to be operating without hindrance or interference from China in the fields of business, law, administration and the social, religious and political spheres.

Overall, his message was upbeat.

"I hope that Hong Kong will take tomorrow by storm. And when it does, history will stand and cheer."

Japan premier faces outside chance of losing election

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto faces an outside chance of losing his parliamentary seat in this month's general elections, which could tip his party and national politics into turmoil, analysts said Wednesday.

In a closely fought contest under a new electoral system, Hashimoto could be the first incumbent prime minister in the country's political history to lose his seat in a general election.

Under a new system introduced in 1994, 300 seats in the 500-seat lower house will be chosen from first-past-the-post districts and the other 200 by proportional representation on regional lists.

Along with several executives of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Mr. Hashimoto decided to run only in a winner-take-all constituency in Okayama, southwestern Japan.

Normally, if Mr. Hashimoto lost in the single-seat district, he would have been able to return to parliament by being high enough on his party's proportional representation list, but he abandoned that safe-haven option to show "his strong resolve" to win the Oct. 20 elections, an LDP official said.

A Hashimoto loss would certainly trigger a power struggle within his party and wreak havoc on Japan's entire political scene, political observers said.

"We can't completely rule

out the possibility of Prime Minister Hashimoto losing in the election," Rei Shiratori of Tokai University near Tokyo said.

If Hashimoto loses his lower house seat, he would have to immediately resign as prime minister and possibly as party president.

Under the constitution, a prime minister must come from the lower house of parliament.

"The most devastating case scenario would be the LDP scoring a stunning victory and Mr. Hashimoto losing in his own district," political analyst Minoru Morita said.

"In that case, naming a new prime minister would be delayed for weeks because of a power struggle within the LDP," he said.

But not all analysts agreed with Mr. Shiratori and Mr. Morita on the prime minister's election chances.

"That will never happen," said political analyst Masayoshi Ito, a secretary to then-Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira in the late 1970s. "If it did, Japan would be plunged into political upheaval."

Pitted against Mr. Hashimoto is veteran politician and former Agriculture Minister Mutsuki Kato, 70, from the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Mr. Kato joined the Shinshinto in December 1994 after defecting from the LDP a year earlier and has strong backing from

trade unions and Japan's biggest lay Buddhist group Soka Gakkai.

In the last 10 general elections when the riding was a multi-seat one, Hashimoto was the top vote-getter five times, and Mr. Kato five times.

But in upper house elections in July 1995, Shinshinto finished 10,000 votes ahead of the LDP in proportional representation voting in the constituency.

"The biggest point is which side the Soka Gakkai will take — Hashimoto or Kato. The Soka Gakkai will hold the key," Mr. Morita said.

He said Mr. Hashimoto could win the election by striking a secret deal with the Buddhist organisation.

Others say Mr. Hashimoto will prevail with heavy support from Okayama's many auto workers, grateful for his help in blunting U.S. car trade demands last year when he was trade minister.

"The clash between Mr. Hashimoto and Mr. Kato will be one of the main parts of the general election," he said.

The popularity of Mr. Hashimoto's government rose slightly after he dissolved Japan's parliament last week for snap elections, according to a poll published Wednesday.

The poll showed 52.3 per cent of those surveyed approved of Mr. Hashimoto's cabinet, up 5.3 percentage points from the previous survey held in July.

Study: Men make calmest single parents

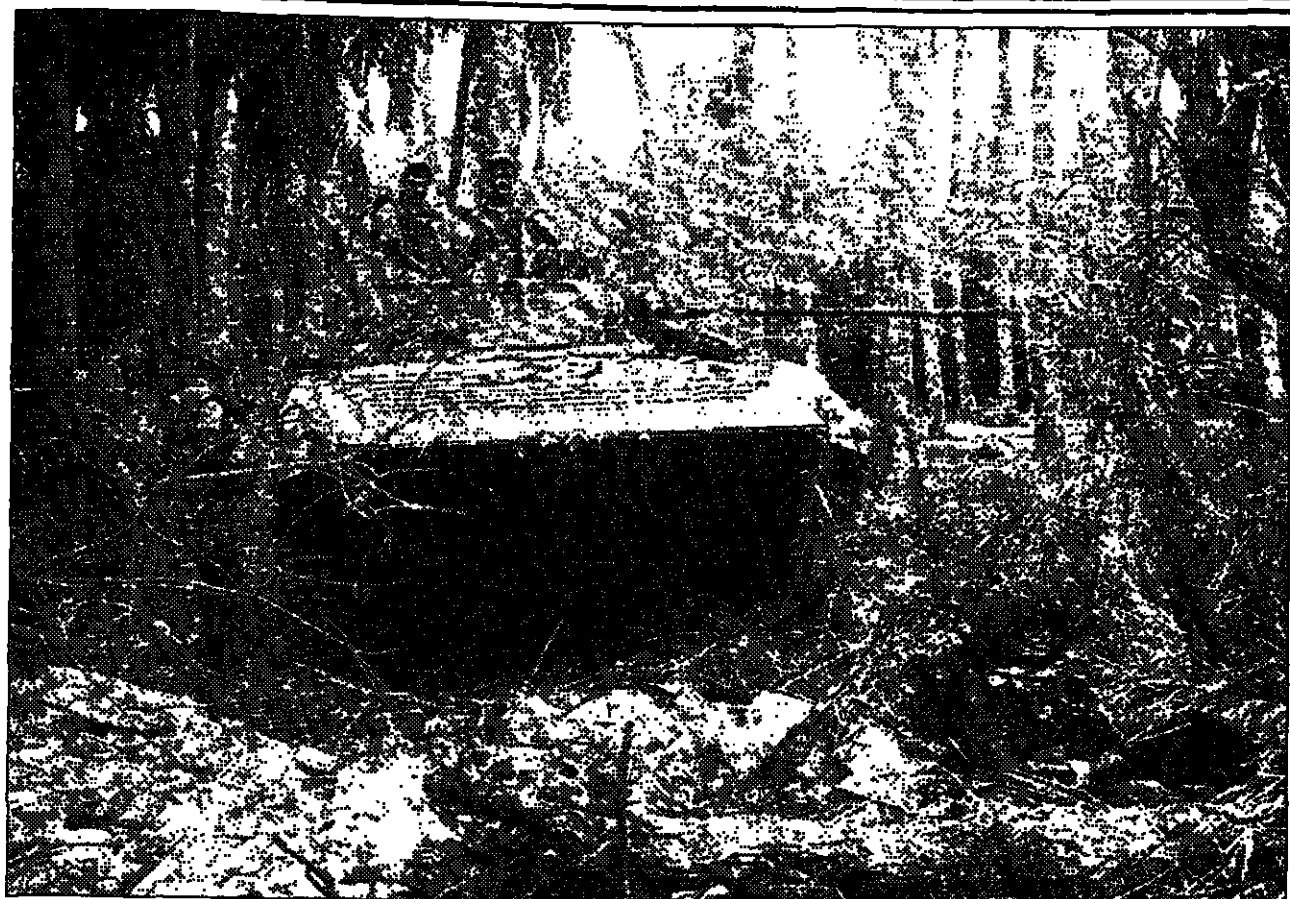
COPENHAGEN (R) — New research by Denmark's Social Research Institute says single fathers are less likely to beat or punish their children than lone mothers. The daily Berlingske Tidende said Wednesday a study of 1,200 children aged between three and five, half living with a single mother and half with only a father, showed the mothers as far more stressed and depressed than the men. "The single mothers have more psychiatric problems than fathers. Their self-confidence is lower and they suffer more from nightmares, insomnia and anxiety attacks," the paper quoted the state-run institute as saying in a report. "Mothers have far more conflict with their children and are quicker to hit or punish their children," the report said. The paper quoted researcher Mogens Nygaard as saying women were not genetically more irritable than men but were under greater economic pressure, being more likely to be jobless or, if they were employed, generally lower-paid than male workers. Women also perceived society as having a more favourable attitude to men caring for their children alone than for single mothers. Nygaard added that only six per cent of all single-parent three to five-year-olds lived with their father.

U.S. military backs Anthrax inoculations

WASHINGTON (R) — Reversing earlier opposition, U.S. military chiefs have endorsed a plan to vaccinate all American forces against Anthrax, the Washington Post reported Wednesday. Quoting unidentified Defence Department officials, the newspaper said the initiative would be the Pentagon's first regular inoculation programme against a germ warfare agent. The outbreak by service commanders removed the principal obstacle to the plan and reflected heightened Pentagon concern about the prospect of biological attack, according to the report. Iraq, Russia and as many as 10 other countries were said by U.S. officials to have at least the capability to load spores of Anthrax into weapons, although no country was known to have released the bacteria on a battlefield. Military leaders initially were dubious about the need for Anthrax vaccine, instead favouring work on a multipurpose vaccine that could counter a number of biological warfare agents, the post said. Some also questioned the \$120 million it would cost to immunise 1.5 million military personnel. But senior civilian Defence Department officials ultimately persuaded the military leaders during months of internal review that U.S. forces were vulnerable to deadly assault by Anthrax and could be safely protected by immunisation, the report said. Anthrax is an infectious haemorrhagic disease of animals, especially cattle and sheep, which can be transmitted to people.

New fish found in Vietnam's 'lost world'

HANOI (R) — Scientists in Vietnam said they had discovered a new fish species in a "lost world" region on the mountainous border with Laos. A World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) statement said the freshwater fish had been found by scientist Dr. Nguyen Thai Tu during a recent expedition into the remote Vu Quang Nature Reserve in northern Vietnam. It measures about 20-25 cm (7.8-9.8 inches) in length, has a golden stripe on its back, a silver belly, weighs about 1.5 kilograms and belongs to the Crossocottus Genus, the statement said.



A Sri Lankan army troop carrier sits stationed on the outskirts of Kilinochchi after capturing it over the weekend. The army is re-establishing a base in the town after a week-long offensive in which it says it lost 269 soldiers and killed more than 700 rebels (Reuter photo)

N. Korea threatens to retaliate for deaths of submarine crew

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Wednesday warned the United Nations Command (UNC) that it would retaliate against the South for the deaths of the men aboard a submarine that ran aground in the South last month, the UNC said.

"At the end of the meeting, the senior representative of the Korean People's Army (KPA) delegation to Panmunjom indicated that serious consequences, which would be announced, would occur as a result of the deaths of their soldiers," a UNC statement said.

President Kim Young-Sam ordered the South Korean military to tighten vigilance because of the threat, a spokesman said.

The entire military must be prepared for any contingency, he quoted Mr. Kim as telling Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho.

A Defence Ministry spokesman clarified the alert was one of "heightened vigilance" and not one of preparation for war.

The threat was made at an hour-long colonel-level meeting, held at North Korea's request at the truce village of Panmunjom.

The threat was immediately met with a protest from the U.N. Command Military Armistice Commission because it "makes the solution of the situation more difficult," the statement said.

"At the meeting, the KPA repeated its demand for the return of its submarine and personnel that infiltrated the Republic of Korea last month, stating once again that the craft had accidentally drifted into Republic

of (South) Korea waters," it said.

"The UNC refuted this claim, citing the considerable body of evidence that the infiltration was a serious and deliberate violation of the (1953) armistice agreement," it added.

The colonel-level contact followed the Sept. 18 grounding of a North Korean Shark-class submarine with 26 men aboard in South Korea.

Since the grounding, one crew member has been captured and 22 killed, 11 apparently at the hands of colleagues. Five South Korean troops have died in the massive manhunt, which was continuing Wednesday for the remaining three.

South Korean news media, citing military sources, said the threat had contained the words "in the near future," but the UNC did not confirm the phrase.

"We are aware of the threat, we take them seriously. We maintain our Combined Forces Command (CFC) forces at a high state of readiness and vigilance," a CFC spokesman, Jim Coles, told AFP.

The CFC encompasses both the South Korean Armed Forces and the 37,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea.

An urgent meeting of top military officials was called in Seoul to discuss the new threat and to explore the possibility that it was linked to the murder Tuesday of a South Korean diplomat in the Russian port city of Vladivostok.

In a separate statement the South Korean Defence Ministry said the KPA had af-

ter the meeting demanded that the United States keep out of the scrap when it did hit back, a demand seen here as unrealistic.

"The Northern side told the United Nations Command (UNC) side after the meeting that the KPA (Korean People's Army) will retaliate for the hunting down of the armed agents. It demanded that the U.S. not intervene when the North retaliates," a ministry statement said.

Foreign Ministry officials have not ruled out the possibility of North Korean involvement in the death Tuesday night of the consul who was in charge of collecting information on North Korea.

Yonhap news agency said President Kim Young-Sam broke into a defence minister's briefing of parliamentarians with an urgent phone call to get a first-hand report on the threat.

Earlier in the day South Korean Defence Minister Lee Yang-Ho warned that the most likely "provocations" the North could take were similar infiltrations or a blockade of South Korea's outlying Western Islands.

A worst-case scenario would involve the launching of Scud missiles, Mr. Lee said, but added that he thought the economically-crippled North was unlikely to risk an all-out war.

The U.S.-led UNC has been in South Korea since U.N. troops were sent to the country at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950. It signed the armistice agreement that has governed the divided peninsula since the war ended in 1953.

Lebed sees NATO as hostile force

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's security czar Alexander Lebed said Tuesday that the planned accession of East European countries as full members of NATO would renew hostile relations between Moscow and the Western bloc.

"NATO's expansion eastwards will take us back to hostility and to the spirit of confrontation," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Gen. Lebed as saying.

Gen. Lebed, who has made a series of anti-Western statements in the past, is due to fly to NATO's Brussels headquarters at the weekend to discuss future relations between Moscow and the Atlantic alliance.

He said there was little doubt that NATO's thrust was aimed against Russia and that Moscow had to think about an adequate response.

"We have missiles, which are rusty but still effective, as a deterrent argument," said Gen. Lebed, a former paratroop general who has never visited the West.

Gen. Lebed's remarks appeared to contrast with the general mood in the Kremlin, where stern opposition to NATO's enlargement has given way to understanding that Moscow can do little to avert it and clear attempts to swap consent for a good deal.

Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said Sunday that the expansion was unavoidable and Russia would be better to start preparing for it.

"I hope our partners will understand that one should do everything to prevent NATO expansion, should it happen, from affecting our relations too much," Mr. Primakov said.

He said that, in any case, he did not expect any full-scale return to the cold war.

He said that if NATO expanded, Moscow would have to reconsider its obligations under key European disarmament pacts signed in the last years of the now defunct Soviet Union, primarily under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty.

President Boris Yeltsin, who is in hospital preparing for heart surgery, said last weekend that Russia wanted its own deal with NATO ahead of expansion.

"First goes a treaty with Russia and then a decision on NATO expansion. Not the other way round," Mr. Yeltsin's press office quoted the ailing Kremlin chief as saying Saturday.

Interfax quoted a leading political expert from an unofficial Kremlin think-tank as saying Tuesday that Moscow will focus on trying to hammer out as many concessions from the West as it can.

Sri Lankan Air Force pounds Tiger targets; rebels retaliate

COLOMBO (AFP) — The air force pounded jungle bases of Tamil Tiger rebels in eastern Sri Lanka as the guerrillas kept up shelling their former bastion that is now under military control, officials said Wednesday.

Russian-built Mi-24 helicopter gun ships attacked hideouts of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the district of Batticaloa Tuesday causing heavy damage to rebel facilities, they said.

"We are awaiting details of LTTE casualties," a defence official said, adding the Tigers had been staging several hit-and-run attacks from their strongholds in thick jungles.

The military action came as the rebels escalated guerrilla attacks against security forces who captured the guerrillas' final major town of Kilinochchi Sunday after a ferocious battle.

The Defence Ministry in a statement said that the Tigers continued to fire mortar bombs at Kilinochchi for

a second day Wednesday but troops suffered no casualties in the long-range battering.

"Troops retaliated with artillery fire," the military said adding that security forces were in the process of consolidating their gains at Kilinochchi, a ghost town where virtually every building had been damaged.

With the fall of the town, the LTTE escalated their hit-and-run attacks by ambushing an army patrol and a police convoy of three buses in the north, killing nine security personnel, officials said.

The LTTE in a statement Wednesday admitted for the first time that security forces had entered the town limits of Kilinochchi but did not say when the troops broke in.

The LTTE staged a major strike and following a brief pause around midday, fighting continued up to the morning of 1st of October, as the two sides exchanged gunfire and shells," the

Tigers said.

The Defence Ministry said Tuesday that the Tigers continued to shell Kilinochchi as troops searched for the guerrillas but there were no casualties among the soldiers.

The Tiger guerrillas are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions.

Meanwhile, more than 300 Sri Lankan Tamil refugees arrived in southern India late Tuesday, two days after the bastion of Tamil separatist guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka fell to government troops.

The Press Trust of India news agency Wednesday said 346 refugees arrived on four boats at the southern town of Rameswaram, separated from the island by a narrow strip of sea called the Palk Straits.

A government official said the refugees — from 139 families — were taken to a camp near Rameswa-

ram. Several thousand Sri Lankan Tamils fled to Tamil Nadu, where Rameswaram is located, in a massive exodus after hundreds of Tamils were slaughtered in ethnic violence in Colombo in July 1983.

A second exodus occurred after the LTTE resumed its war against the Sri Lankan government in June 1990. Many went back over the years although Tamil Nadu is still home to more than 100,000 refugees.

While nearly 57,000 of them are housed in Indian government-aided camps, the others live on their own across the sprawling state.

Tamil Nadu is home to 55 million Indian Tamils. Although support to the LTTE has died down in Tamil Nadu since the Tigers were blamed for former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi's assassination near here in 1991, some political parties still support their cause.

Khmer Rouge dissidents take key base from rivals

BATTAMBANG, Cambodia (R) — Dissident Khmer Rouge guerrillas overran the key northwestern Samlaut Military Base controlled by Khmer Rouge hardliners, senior Cambodian Defence Ministry officials said Wednesday.

The Samlaut Base, which had been held by loyalists of hardliner Pol Pot, was captured by supporters of dissident leader Ieng Sary late Monday, they told reporters here.

The takeover of this timber-rich jungle base had strengthened Ieng Sary's dissident Khmer Rouge group because thousands of pro-Pol Pot guerrillas and their dependents had defected to him, they added.

Defence Minister Tea Banh said the dissidents were consolidating their hold over the Samlaut area, which is about 80 kilometres southwest of Battambang and 30 kilometres south of the main dissident base of Pailin.

"Nearly 2,000 soldiers and almost 10,000 dependents have come to join (the breakaway Khmer Rouge faction) in Samlaut," said Cambodian General Sou Kimsun.

He added that the key base and other villages in the area had been taken without casualties Monday by the dissidents.

The figures could not be independently confirmed. Earlier estimates put the number of dissident Khmer Rouge soldiers at 1,000 to 3,000, and the number of dependents who had split from the hardliners at about 30,000.

With the defections from Samlaut, Mr. Ieng Sary's dissident faction could now amount to a third to one half of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla force that existed before they broke away.

Western and government



Khmer Rouge soldiers, carrying an array of weapons and wearing civilian clothes, arrive at a ceremony near the town of Battambang to celebrate their recent defection to the royal Cambodian government on Oct. 1. The Cambodian military announced today that another 2,000 Khmer Rouge guerrillas and 10,000 family members were under the royal government's control after the takeover of Samlaut, a strategic Khmer Rouge base, by the Cambodian military (Reuter photo)

military sources said before the split in August that the Khmer Rouge had less than 10,000 men under arms against about 35,000 in the late 1980s.

The Samlaut area is regarded as the main business generating place for the Khmer Rouge over the past year through the granting of logging concessions, mainly to Thai businessmen.

It was also the site of a 1967 peasant revolt that some historians say launched the Khmer Rouge's armed struggle.

General Sou said several prominent hardliners had fled the area, adding that feared one-legged Commander Ta Mok had left 10 days earlier for the northern base of Anlong Veng. Defence chief Son Sen and leading cadre Nuon Chea had fled to southern Cambodia at the weekend.

Military officials and ana-

lysts said the loss of the Samlaut region would mean the hardliners had lost their only toe-hold in areas controlled by the guerrillas loyal to Ieng Sary.

But the hardliners still control important resources in the north, centred around the stronghold of Anlong Veng, and influence the southwestern areas of Pursat and Koh Kong.

Khmer Rouge commanders based in the northwest and loyal to Mr. Ieng Sary broke with Pol Pot and other hardliners in August and forged a ceasefire with the government.

Mr. Ieng Sary was pardoned in September by King Sihanouk after previously being sentenced to death in absentia for his role during the brutal Pol Pot regime, which ruled from 1975-78. More than one million people were killed during the Khmer Rouge

reign of terror. Military merger talks with the dissidents began last month after Mr. Ieng Sary's pardon.

The government wants the dissident guerrillas to merge with its armed forces immediately and to place their northwest regions under central control. They have promised the dissidents some senior local administration and military positions.

General Sou Kimsun said the dissidents had spent several days preparing for the takeover and that leaflets had been dropped over the area, presumably by government helicopters.

"Now the Khmer Rouge separatists occupy (the Samlaut area) totally and there is no fight back," he added.

"I wonder if there were any shots fired," said a Western military analyst, adding: "It's a good sign."

Pyongyang suspected over murder of S. Korean consul

SEOUL (AFP) — The South Korean Foreign Ministry raised suspicions Wednesday that North Korea was behind the murder of a Seoul diplomat in Russia who was in charge of intelligence gathering on the Communist North.

Choi Duck-Keun, 53, the consul in Vladivostok in the Russian Far East, was found dead late Tuesday on the steps of an apartment block in the port city, a ministry spokesman said.

"Choi was found clubbed on the back of the head and stabbed in his right side with a sharp instrument," said ministry spokesman Suh Dae-Won.

According to the ministry, Mr. Choi lived in the block where he was found. The Russian ITAR-TASS news agency said however the building was a long way from his home.

"We can't rule out the possibility that North Korea could be involved in the murder case," the spokesman told AFP, adding that Mr. Choi had been in charge of gathering information on North Korea.

But he said no evidence had as yet been uncovered to link the murder to the North despite Pyongyang's threats to retaliate against South Korea for hunting down the crew from a wrecked North Korean spy submarine.

The threats came after South Korea rejected Pyongyang's appeal to send back the submarine, stranded in the South on Sept. 18 with 26 infiltrators aboard.

been the victim of a poison dart attack. But South Korea's consul-general in Vladivostok told the Yonhap news agency that Russian authorities refused to disclose the result of the autopsy.

"When Choi's body was found, his wallet, passport and cash were still in his pockets," the ministry spokesman said, indicating that Mr. Choi's death might not have been a simple mugging.

Russian Television said the diplomat had been alive when discovered by a tenant returning home but died before he was rushed to a hospital.

South Korea sent a government team to help investigate the murder, believed to be the first of a South Korean diplomat abroad, the ministry spokesman said.

South Korea has a five-member diplomatic mission and 300 businessmen and students in Vladivostok. North Korea has a bigger force of diplomats and loggers in the nearby city of Nachodka.

"If the murder was confirmed to have been committed by North Korea, we must set up stern measures to detect and crack down on their terrorist acts," South Korea's ruling party warned.

"I know of no reason for him to be murdered," Choi Young-Sam, a colleague of Mr. Choi's in the Vladivostok consulate, told Yonhap television news.

"There are many assumptions, but no suspect is in sight here," he added.

Mr. Choi was married with two children. He had been posted to Vladivostok, which carries on a lively trade with South Korea, since December 1995.

Kashmir party favouring autonomy sweeps polls

SRINAGAR, India (R) — The largest pro-India party in the troubled Jammu and Kashmir state won a sweeping majority in the first local elections since a separatist rebellion began in 1990, results showed Wednesday.

The moderate National Conference Party, led by former Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, won 54 seats in the state's 87-member assembly, election officials said.

Counting in the six remaining constituencies that went to the polls over the weekend was to start Thursday.

Mr. Abdullah campaigned on a platform calling for greater autonomy for the fractious Himalayan region, where more than 20,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence.

"The results are very close to our expectations," said Saifuddin Soz, National Conference spokesman. "We are particularly hope-

ful that our plank on enlargement of autonomy has been accepted by the people."

India's constitution originally gave Kashmiris nominal control over most affairs, but New Delhi has gradually eroded these powers since 1952. The National Conference wants to recapture some of them to help subdue the separatist movement.

Among these was the right to have its own Wazir-e-Azam, or prime minister. Mr. Soz said he hoped Mr. Abdullah would eventually take the oath as prime minister.

"On Oct. 6, we shall have a legislature party meeting, and then on Oct. 8, he will be sworn in as chief minister, and inshallah (God willing), later as Wazir-e-Azam," Mr. Soz told Reuters.

Mr. Abdullah was chief minister when the insurgency flared in early 1990. With 81 of 87 races decid-

ed, the National Conference had a commanding lead over its rivals. The Congress Party and Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) each had seven seats, and Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda's Janata Dal Party had five.

Congress conceded defeat. "We will provide full support to the National Conference in running the government," party spokesman Gulam Rasool Kar said.

Members of the separatist all parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference said Mr. Abdullah's victory would not help solve Kashmir's problems.

"It will not make much change on the ground," said Hurriyat member Abdul Majid Bhandari. "Unless you address the people's basic aspirations for self-determination, you cannot do much."

Mr. Abdullah, who escaped two grenade attacks during the month-long elec-

tions, has rejected the separatists' demand for independence or merger with Pakistan.

Instead, he has called for greater autonomy for the Himalayan state and vowed to crack down on armed militants.

India accuses Pakistan, which rules over one-third of the disputed Kashmir region, of funding and arming separatist guerrillas. Islamabad denies the charge, saying it extends them only moral and political support.

Mr. Abdullah's party refused to participate in parliamentary elections held earlier this year, saying the Congress government of then Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao was not committed to meeting his party's autonomy demands.

But after Deve Gowda assumed power in June, his centre-left United Front coalition pledged "maximum autonomy" to mostly Hindu India's only Muslim majority state.

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Beyond mountain of suspicions...

BENEATH THE handshakes and smiles that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu exchanged with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat lie not only deep suspicions and mutual mistrust on the personal level but also huge disagreements and fundamental differences over the course and goals of the peace process itself.

Israel's opening of the tunnel in East Jerusalem was the illegal Israeli action that sparked the recent violence in the occupied territories. But Netanyahu's determination to reopen the tunnel after the confrontations is a reflection of the obstinate Israeli policies that are the roots of the frustration and hopelessness that have come to engulf the region since Netanyahu took power three and half months ago.

Conflict was simmering beneath the tense calm that prevailed among the Palestinians since then. Netanyahu did more than renege on the promises and break the agreements that the Palestinians and his Labour predecessors reached. He played havoc with the Palestinians' hope for the fulfilment of their rights. That was a sure recipe for a crisis that could explode at any moment in the future if the Washington summit fails to rein in Netanyahu by convincing him that peace is about compromises and respect for the partners in the process aiming at its achievement.

Netanyahu has refused so far to implement Israeli redeployment in the Palestinian city of Hebron where the peace of 120,000 Palestinians is sacrificed to appease 450 Israeli settlers. He had effectively revoked the commitment to the principle of land-for-peace upon which the Madrid process was launched and started to expand the illegal Israeli settlements in defiance of the whole international community and in provocation of the Palestinians. But that is only one aspect of the battle against peace that the Likud government has been launching. Another major part is the condescending attitude with which Netanyahu has been approaching the Palestinians. The Likud leader is obviously refusing to treat them as equal partners in a process that can only bring mutual benefits. That is an attitude that cannot take the parties far down the road of peace.

These are fundamental issues that the Washington summit should address if the peace process is to be put back on track. The Palestinian people need to be assured of the good faith of the Israelis. The establishment of a personal rapport between Arafat and Netanyahu could be an important achievement of the Washington meeting. But this rapport should lead to the implementation of all that the Israelis and the Palestinians have agreed on. Netanyahu should have learned by now that he cannot win it all, that he has to give and take if the Israelis and the Palestinians are to restart the slow, but inevitable, process towards lasting and comprehensive peace.

Above all he should come to realise that peace and security are mutually reinforcing, not exclusive. Netanyahu should know, true security, in particular, is dependent on attaining peace first, not vice versa.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i said Wednesday that Jordanians sympathise with the Iraqis more than other Arab states for brotherly, economic and political reasons. Fahed Fanek said Jordanians might also feel sorry for what is happening in Somalia, which faces famine and civil strife, but they for sure have a stronger brotherly feeling towards the Iraqi people. While Somalia is not exposed to external aggression like Iraq, its people continue their in-fighting in a power struggle which could end if the warring factions resort to reason, noted the writer. He said in the case of Iraq, its people are facing starvation. U.S. aggression and a U.N.-imposed embargo for no making of their own. It should be also noted that Iraq has been the main importer of Jordanian products, said the writer. While Jordan has no direct interest in Somalia, like other African or Arab states, he said, it has real political, economic and national interests in Iraq whose people continues to face threats and external aggression.

A WRITER for Al Dustour said Wednesday that the Arab-Israeli summit in Washington would achieve nothing simply because of Israel's adamant stand and its rejection to implement the peace accords. Taher Adwan said that U.S. President Bill Clinton has proved that he is the sponsor of the peace process only in form but not in substance, simply because the U.S. is a strategic ally of the Jewish state and because the Zionist lobby in America dominates the political decision makers in the White House and Congress. Noting that 1996 is a presidential election year, the writer said there is no doubt that Mr. Clinton remains under the influence of Israel and its formidable allies in the United States, and will no doubt try to exercise pressure on the Arab side rather than on the Israeli prime minister. The writer said that the Washington meeting should be followed by a mini-Arab summit, grouping Arab states directly involved in the Middle East problem, to be later followed by an enlarged summit. He said the world respects the Arabs' views only when their leaders are in agreement.

The View from Academia

Fund raising for universities should be considered in earnest

By Dr. Ahmad Majdoubeh

THERE IS no doubt that the lack of funds, from which our universities (as well as most of our other national institutions) have been suffering for some time now, has left a negative impact not only on their future plans and aspirations but also on their performance at present. The first thing that university officials emphasise, when they speak to faculty members or students in the annual and periodic meetings, is lack of funds. "We would have easily done this," is another answer to a suggestion from a student or faculty member, "if we had the financial means." They are right, of course, as far as the status quo (financially speaking) is concerned, but something must be done — can be done — (I believe) to overcome the problem.

The limited "financial means" have affected most academic aspects at our national universities. The rooms available for classes, many of which are inconvenient and unsuitable in the first place, are way short of our needs. Many departments on our campuses are also understaffed. As a result of these two factors, the number of students enrolled in most of our sections seems alarmingly large. How can you teach (for example) a literature class of seventy, sixty, or even fifty students in which you want to have them interact, participate, think and express themselves? The worst thing you can do, in my opinion, is to lecture and have students copy and memorise.

Rooms available for extra-curricular activities are also extremely limited. Last semester we, in the English Department at the University of Jordan (and a few years prior to that at Yarmouk University), had to cancel some of our activities because of lack of space. Al Farahedi Hall is not particularly congenial or cozy, and informal, spontaneous interaction is not easy (it is too large, formal and distracting), but it is the only hall available to us — and not at all times.

The budget available to faculty members for conferences and seminars abroad is remarkably insufficient and, in

some cases, when a faculty member is nominated to participate in a programme abroad, the nomination is made conditional (especially if other colleagues are applying) on the university "not contributing to the expenses." There are times when we want to xerox material to use in our classes and we cannot (the xerox machines are so sacred no one dares to come near them); to type material on stencil is neither convenient nor efficient. Most of the time, we copy off-campus at our expense, or just forget the matter entirely.

In light of the recent developments, the situation is likely to get worse. Too many universities are competing for government funds, the government does not have extra money to spare and foreign aid is scarce. Recession is in fact a worldwide phenomenon. When I was in the U.S. last year, I felt that almost all universities, academic establishments and research institutions (both public and private) were suffering from lack of funds. Scarcity of funds is not our problem alone; the phenomenon is global.

What do we do? Well, what others are doing. The first thing is think of the problem as a treatable problem, and not as one which we can do nothing or little about. Second, many solutions can be thought of and patiently but diligently implemented; I am sure we have enough experienced people on our campuses to tell us what to do. One solution would be the establishment of more investment projects. Another would be the increase of income-generating programmes on campus. The University of Jordan has an excellent experience with both of these. The one solution I wish to emphasise here, however, is fundraising.

This is what most other universities in other parts of the world do. The U.S. universities I visited last year (and the ones we read about in The Chronicle of Higher Education) all rely heavily on fund raising. As in our case, university officials abroad complain against, and even lament, the lack of funds. But they form committees and devise plans

and strategies to raise funds. And they succeed in getting enough not to seriously hamper their existing programmes and future plans. We can do the same.

The concept of fund raising does not need much explanation. It is simply the attempt to get funds from donors: institutions (local or international) and private individuals (former alumni as well as persons who appreciate education or can be persuaded to appreciate it). This idea is working beautifully in many countries. In our society, the idea is novel, even though donations of sorts are happening daily. However, our culture values charity work a great deal, and with some effort and determination we can make the task of fund raising work. And just as Friday preachers urge people to donate for helping the poor or constructing new mosques, they can be persuaded to urge people to donate to universities.

But what is needed is first of all a serious appreciation and then an adoption of the idea, more than it is happening presently. Initially, a committee at each of our universities has to be set up to work out a plan of action; eventually, we have to have a formal office or department, supported by the highest authority on campus, whose sole business is to attract funds and think of ways of getting people to donate.

The most crucial factor, however, is the choice of the people who will spearhead this vital task. They have to believe in the idea; they have to have the necessary skills and charisma, and they have to be creative in the thoughts that they suggest. I believe that with the right people and the right level of commitment, we can make this vital task work and alleviate many of our problems. Some of our universities are exerting an effort but it is no way near what we aspire. We want them to take this task a lot more seriously than they are taking it at present.

The 100 days of grace of Netanyahu's reign

By Peretz Kidron

BENYAMIN NETANYAHU completed 100 days as prime minister close to the Jewish New Year, and the coincidence prompted media retrospectives of one of the most tumultuous years in Israel's political history, side by side with sober assessments of the performance of the new government. Passion and colour on the one hand, portrayals of inconclusiveness on the other. The contrast was unmistakable.

Inevitably, summaries of the Jewish calendar year 5755 binged on one central event: the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. In analysing its impact, observers noted ruefully that the murder has left surprisingly few scars. Indeed, one random survey of public attitudes to the year's events found many respondents oblivious of the murder; a jogging of memory prompted others to a half-hearted recognition of its significance. Many Israelis recall the killing with great anguish, but the public response overall bears little resemblance to the place the Kennedy assassination occupies in the American collective consciousness.

Undoubtedly, attitudes are coloured by political loyalties. Labour voters and those sections of public opinion broadly in favour of the peace process dwell on the shared trauma of November 1995. But nationalist circles espousing the diligently propagated view of Rabin as a latter-day Petain (a one-time military hero who ended up betraying his nation's interests by collaborating with its worst enemies) scarcely trouble to disguise their conviction that his murder was an act of divine providence, bringing his peace policies to an abrupt halt and paving the way for Netanyahu's election victory.

On the lunatic fringe, the assassination evokes unceasing admiration extending to cult-like worship of its perpetrator, Yigal Amir. The mainstream right prefers a more dignified tone, condemning the killing while yet contriving to suggest that Rabin brought it upon himself by his own misdeeds. In the days immediately after the assassination, a few of the more thoughtful right-wingers conceded a measure of shared responsibility for the venomous anti-Rabin propaganda that set the tone for his murder. It was plain to all that the entire "national camp" was guilty, in varying degrees, of hounding Rabin to his death.

But like die-hards anywhere, Israel's nationalists are not inclined to self-flagellation for their sins, and when the victim's own Labour followers consciously opted — in the purported interest of national unity and reconciliation — to remove the issue from their election propaganda, the right wing hastened to snap out its short-lived contrition. In their increasingly rare references to the assassination, nationalist politicians refer to it as a "calamity," a natural disaster without any human agent.

Netanyahu's attitude is characteristic of this double standard. Whenever an interviewer refers to Rabin and his policies, Netanyahu slips into "solemn statesman" mode, carefully choosing the appropriate words to condemn the assassination. Then, having paid lip-service to decorum, he goes on to equally sharp condemnation of Rabin's course, openly arguing that the late prime minister disregarded vital national interests. Whether or not that is his intent, the outcome falls little short of retroactive vindication of the assassination, subtly suggesting that it was a patriotic deed.

The ambiguity Netanyahu has exhibited since the murder prompted Rabin's widow to bar his attendance at the anniversary memorial service. She expressed equally vigorous objections to a eulogy by President Weizman, whom she accuses of disrespect for her dead husband, not unreasonably after he inaugurated the festive session of the new Knesset without a single mention of the assassination. Accordingly, Rabin will be commemorated without the participation of the two leading figures of the political establishment.

Little heat

The new year supplements foreshadowing the Rabin commemoration also carried detailed summaries of Netanyahu's first 100 days. Straddling a broad range of political sympathies, assessments were notable overall for their singular lack of passion. In striking contrast with the white heat of political controversy a year ago, the mood reflected in the media three months into the Netanyahu administration is amazingly calm. That even tone may be the new prime minister's most notable achievement to date, offering some consolation for his dismal ratings in the polls.

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In part, the muted tone of political debate can be traced back to Netanyahu's mode of operation. Unlike Rabin, who backed his rhetoric, often blunt to the point of coarseness, with acts on the ground, Netanyahu stands out for verbal brinkmanship with relatively few concrete actions.

Critics complain that his style of government is extension of his election campaign, long on slogan and gesture but with little to show in practice, most notably on domestic issues. His pledge to cover the deficit, allegedly run up by his extravagant Labour predecessors, by slashing the budget has made little impact: cuts are effectively postponed to 1997. The same holds for his much vaunted intentions of privatising state-owned industries.

Inaction

In the more fateful sphere of the peace process and relations with Israel's Arab

neighbours, Netanyahu is notable more for inaction than a bold step in any direction. He stepped up the rhetoric in relation to Syria: but without a single shot fired. Syrian troop movements signalling that he had gone too far induced him to step back from the brink. In the occupied territories, he has opted for an evasive policy that leaves everyone dissatisfied. His most notable act in relation to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) was to postpone beyond any reasonable term his meeting with Yasser Arafat. When this threatened to spark a total rupture with the Palestinians, he contrived to mollify them with gradual relaxation of the closure imposed by the previous government. In the end he did meet Arafat for the inevitable handshake.

Netanyahu's own settler supporters got similar hot and cold treatment. Pledges to "unshackle" settlement expansion have hitherto produced relatively little action. While preparations are afoot for expansion of existing settlements, there appear to be no plans for further colonisation.

The fateful issue of Hebron, and Rabin's formal undertaking to withdraw Israeli troops from most of the city, is widely regarded as the crucial test case. Netanyahu is committed to meeting Israel's contractual obligations; will he go through with it over the settlers' predictably hysterical objections? Much depends on the firmness of his collocutors in the international arena. Netanyahu is wary of an irreparable rift with his Arab neighbours or his American patrons; secretly, he has a healthy respect for the opinions of the despised Europeans and is not totally indifferent to the Russians.

Judging by his conduct hitherto, he will draw out the Hebron withdrawal as long as is humanly possible; eager to prove his negotiating prowess, he will black-mail Arafat into offering cosmetic concessions on demarcation lines or troop redeployment. But when the chips are down, and angry messages from Cairo and Washington start piling up on his desk, Netanyahu will issue the withdrawal order. He will, however, contrive to let the cameras catch him sad and grim-faced.

Middle East International

LETTERS

Reason should prevail

To the Editor:

THIS LAST week has been malevolent. The faces of Hanin and Hani are mentally superimposed on the faces of all the other — and equally innocent — children playing in the street or sitting in the back of their parent's cars at traffic lights... they must be protected from evil (in cyanide capsules and other forms). The horror of Hanin and Hani's trusting end has darkened all our lives with dread and a loss of innocence.

An equal loss of innocence is in the hearts of those of us still trying to open our minds to the potential of interactive globalisation and economic blocs and other constructive topics that emerge with an end to the paralysis of insecurity (actual and mental) in the Middle East. The shots that rang out in Jerusalem and the West Bank, and their echo, shake our nascent and carefully tended faith in peace with Israel.

There is a sick pre-recognition in the sight of tanks in the streets of Jerusalem and Cobra helicopters raining rounds of fire on Ramallah and the scattering of Friday crowds around Al Aqsa Mosque like wheat fields in the wind under the rain of bullets. Wherever the dead or wounded fell, antlike figures came running back to pick them up and out of range.

Even those vainly practising passive resistance, joining hands and chanting in the face of aggression, were met with the well-known kick to the groin and shattering of kneecaps and skulls. How are we to concentrate on peace building and other art forms of our common future while swallowing so many images of us being treated like so much un-Kosher meat?

The reaction to Al Aqsa tunnel is the tip of an iceberg of buried recrimination and evokes painful memories only very thinly covered by the efforts of the past two years. It is true we are a divided nation, but in dealing with Palestinian rights in their ancestral lands — to housing, education, employment, services and a workable future — with such utter disregard, contempt for religious sanctity and brutal subjugation of any expression of outrage, Israel comes very near to uniting us into a sea of hatred that could break out in myriad forms — from the politic to the fanatic. Special background reference is made to the inimitable casting of Sharon as minister of infrastructure (somewhat like casting Goebbels as minister of health in the Jewish state).

The Palestine National Authority (PNA) soldiers that so shocked the Israelis by firing at them rather than at their fellow Palestinians, reverted to defending their own. In the midst of the chaos of the savage onslaught of Israeli weaponry on civilians — men, women and children — it would have been very strange if they had not.

Another remarkable factor is that the average age of those on the streets is far too young to harbour historical stores of hatred — they are obviously bred to hate by day to day Israeli practices: there may never be a peaceful and viable alternative for them if this trend goes on.

While it is civilised and lawful to be at peace, civilisation — as we can see in every newscast — is but a thin veneer over bestiality. Very obviously, the seductive best Israel has to offer is not for the Israeli/Palestinian/Arab. To protect his people — a highly logical aim — Netanyahu must give us reason to believe that he can also protect our own. If the late Rabin — one of the original warriors who helped establish the Zionist state — could rise above military thinking to a higher and intensive vision of peace that both Jew and Arab could believe in, Netanyahu must aim for no less.

It would be very tragic if the assassin's bullet — always a cowardly and base weapon — could indeed kill our hopes for peace as Yigal Amir intended in his racist mind. He can achieve his end unless Netanyahu rises above racism and meets us half-way — in the name of Israel's long-term interest — that we, in our turn, can meet him half-way — in Arab's interest.

There are many layers of human (and pre-Christian) civilisations in Rome and the Vatican City, yet no one seems to be burrowing, ferret-like, under the foundations of the Sixine Chapel, exposing it to future "accident" and rewriting history an inch at a time, playing with reality and chipping away at the sanctity of others' beliefs.

I very much hope that His Majesty King Hussein's endeavour to bring the holy sites of Jerusalem under the protection of an international body can come to pass. I very much hope that his hand that is always outstretched towards human compassion and rational thought is not turned away. The Israeli leadership could otherwise live to regret not dealing with rational men.

Within this context, what real difference is there between the builders of Dimona and Qadhaifi's aspirations? The fuse Netanyahu lights with each arrogant gesture is an unpredictably dangerous one.

Diala Al Jabri,
Amman

Society on the Move

Noting 'a time for every purpose'

If plans being prepared on the state level for November are realised, Amman may host not only South African President Nelson Mandela but Indonesian President Suharto as well. If one is curious why President Suharto goes by one name, it is because Indonesian culture usually makes use of only one name. While nothing could be confirmed, Indonesian embassy officials did say the idea of a presidential visit is in the works, and that it appears that it will be a single-country visit to the Kingdom only. Over at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs however, no one seemed to have heard of the envisaged trip. Turbulent times in Jakarta last month have quieted perhaps enough to allow the incumbent President to look away from party politics and an election for a brief time to visit the Kingdom. It would be the first state visit for Mr. Suharto, whose wife Tien passed away three months ago. The couple had transited through Amman on earlier trips. Incidentally, if anyone noticed the flag at the Indonesian embassy flying at half-mast on Monday, it was to commemorate the government and army officials who lost their lives during the 1965 coup d'état staged by Communists on Sept. 30.

A WORD ON DYNAMICS: Former Chief of the

Royal Court Adnan Abu Odeh is back in Jordan from about a year of research and writing in the United States. On a grant from the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington, D.C., Mr. Abu Odeh decided to go full throttle and write a book instead of the originally planned paper on the "Jordanian-Palestinian Dynamic in Jordan: Origins, Evolution and Impact on the Peace Process." He found the intellectual atmosphere and research facilities stimulating enough to Adnan Abu Odeh have completed the first half of his manuscript, which USIP has expressed an interest in publishing. Meanwhile, Mr. Abu Odeh has applied for a grant at the Woodrow Wilson Institute, also in Washington, hoping to finish the manuscript where the availability of research assistants and necessary documents is no problem. On a anecdotal note, as a man who never had to stand in line, cook his own meals or do his own laundry, Mr. Abu Odeh looks at his grant experience as rehabilitation back to an ordinary life, with no regrets. He lived in the same apartment building as Tahseen Bashir, a former Egyptian diplomat, and enjoyed many encounters with him. Should the Woodrow Wilson grant accrue, Mr. Abu Odeh will be Washington-bound again in January. This past week, he took up discussion of current issues when he wrote an article in Al Dustour Arabic daily on the summit conference in Washington grouping His Majesty King Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

AN AUGUST UNDERTAKING: In another academic vein, nominations for the Annual Wasfi Tal Award are being solicited. The award is named after the late prime minister who was assassinated in Cairo in 1971. This award differs from other awards such as the Crown Prince Award, the Shoman Foundation Award, and the Ministry of Culture Awards, in that it is the first such prize to encourage political thought and writing. To add weight to this already significant endeavour is the board of trustees



President Suharto of Indonesia

presided over by former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and including former prime ministers Zeid Rifai and Taher Masri as well as 26 current and former senior officials, ministers, senators and other prominent individuals. Candidates for this first-time prize must write a 45,000-word paper on the development of political thought in Jordan since the establishment in 1921 of the Emirate of Transjordan and the contents must contribute qualitatively to the mandate of the award. That stipulation in itself opens the door for serious empirical and analytical work on the subject at hand, a novel approach.

TAKING A RAINCHECK: An analytical look at what some intellectuals and academics have termed "The Fear of Peace" is precisely what the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies was planning to take this Friday and Saturday. But this sobering subject is being put on the back-burner, until "better conditions" prevail in the forthcoming weeks. With the recent violence between Palestinians and Israeli authorities and the emergency summit called by the U.S. President, organisers have rethought the appropriateness of discussing economic and strategic apprehensions inherent in moving the peace process forward at such a critical time. The forum was to be held in Petra and participated in by Jordanians, Palestinians and Israelis.

CHOCK-FULL OF INFO: The French organisation known more commonly as CERMO, (the centre for studies and research on the contemporary Middle East) has plowed ahead and issued its first issue of "Jordanies." This new publication focuses on research and documentation on Jordanian politics, economy and society "of a serious academic nature." A second issue is to be published by the end of December. The bulletin is the combined product of CERMO itself and several academicians from Jordan and abroad. Next month CERMO will be soliciting subscriptions to its new endeavour. To give you a hint of what substance the publication holds, here are some examples: special reports on "The Government of the White Revolution," "Poverty and Vulnerability in Jordan," "Jordanian-Palestinian Union in Opinion Polls," "Teenagers in Jordan," and "Jordan and the IMF." The December issue will include book reviews of Amman and its Surroundings by Jean Hannoyer and Setani Shami; Jordan Inter-Arab Relations by Laurie

Brand, and On Both Banks of the Jordan — A Political Biography of Wasfi Tal by Asher Susser. Jordanies' editor is CERMO Director Jean Hannoyer who is based in Beirut. The centre's Amman office is directed by Ricardo Bocca, also a member of Jordanies' editorial board. According to Editorial Secretary Françoise de Bel-Air, the work involved has been painstaking but worth it.

THE CHURCH IN THE STATE: It is not only officialdom, the diplomatic corps and sundry organisations that witness activity — the religious sector can provide some interesting news as well. Take for instance the appointment of a Maronite bishop for the Holy Land and Jordan. He is Bishop Boulos Al Sayah who will be installed during a ceremony Saturday evening in Lebanon. As a sect of the Roman Catholic Church, the Maronites have historically inhabited the mountains of Lebanon. The few Maronite families living in Jordan do not as yet have their own church and worship at the Latin Patriarchy. The ceremony for Bishop Sayah will be held in Bkirki, seat of the Maronite Patriarchy at The Church Of Our Lady In Harisa. Invited to attend are Roman Catholic Bishop Salim Sayegh, head of the Greek Catholic Church in Amman Bishop George El Murr and Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan William Habib. Bishop Sayah can be expected to visit Jordan from time to time during his mission, but it is still unclear whether an office or rectory will be set up in Amman to accommodate his work while here. The new bishop comes from an academic background, having studied and taught in the U.S.

Another minority Christian sect, the Assyrians, have a new bishop of Jerusalem. His name is Severios Murad and he is expected to arrive in Amman Friday. Bishop Murad is scheduled to conduct his first mass on Sunday at Saint Aphram Church in Ashrafieh which serves the small but devoted Assyrian community in Jordan. He replaces Bishop Bahnan Jarjawi who has been the bishop of Jerusalem for 25 years. Bishop Jarjawi will retire to a monastery in his native Iraq.

As if to coincide with the goings and comings of Christian clergy in and out of town, Armenian Archbishop of Iraq Ayvak Asadourian was in Jordan last week arriving from a visit to Armenia and on his way back to Baghdad. He was the personal guest of his counterpart Bishop Vahan Topalian during his stay and met with several leaders of the various Christian churches in Jordan. As is customary for visiting senior clergy, he conducted a Sunday mass on the occasion of the Feast of the Holy Cross at Saint Taiheos Church, the only Armenian Orthodox Church in Jordan serving a community of about 4,000 of which about 3,000 are Jordanians. The only unfortunate incident that occurred during his visit is that a brother of the cloth, Father Keghart Khacharian, an Armenian priest from Vancouver, Canada, was on a tourist visit to Jordan with a group of his parishioners. He suffered a slipped disk while braving the pavements of Amman and was admitted to Lucmilla Hospital where he was operated on by Dr. Salah Salah. Still recovering, Father Khacharian is said to be in good spirits.

SAFE IN THE CHAMBER: Back on the job at the Lower House of Parliament is Deputy Abdul Baqi Jammo who is the longest serving and oldest member of Parliament. The deputy, who is also deputy speaker of the Lower House, was involved in a road accident and hospitalised for a short while for observation. With no injuries sustained, Sheikh Jammo, who represents the Chechen seat for the Zarqa district but is popular as well among the Muslim community there for his forceful handling of local problems, is back safe in the halls of Parliament, save for the occasional flying ashtray, hurled not by himself but by other parties.

DISCIPLINED DISCIPLES: Back to school means something special for 21 students who have been awarded the British Council/British Embassy Chevening Scholarships. The scholarship programme, established in Jordan in 1982 usually sees between 20 and 25 students annually leaving for the U.K. to study for one year in a masters curricula. With the exception of medicine and dentistry, the post-graduate scholarship is open to nearly all disciplines. This year's 1996/97 competition was termed fierce. The scholars were selected among 1400 applicants. The current scholarship recipients, many of whom have already left for the U.K., are: Luna Fawzi Gharaibeh (law), Majdi Mohammad Ali (business administration), Basma Nafis Madanat (investment management), Yusra Asim Ghosheh (commercial law), Lubna Izziddin (gender and development), Shireen Shalhin (development studies), Khuloud Abdul Razzak Tabeishat (environment), Mahu Rantisi Abdulhamid (development studies), Abdullah Muqatash (environmental assessment and planning), Modhi Huj Mansa (physiotherapy), Amer Rabadi (agriculture-plant breeding and crop improvement), Thorwat Awamleh (development policy and planning), Fatiel Radwan (environmental engineering), Rana Mohammad Azam (pharmacokinetics, disposition and pharmacogenetics), Mohammad Luay Froukh (water resources planning and management), Rael Ashhab (design and manufacturing), Mohammad Masri (political science), Samer Mufleh Qudahi (commercial law), Majdi Za'al Burgan (quality management), Yousif M. Ibrahim Targali (electronic engineering), and Naim Jamal (automotive engineering). The British Embassy said applications for the 1997-98 programme will be available at the embassy and the British Council from Oct. 13-27. Closing date for receipt of applications is Nov. 7. Candidates should have a record of excellence, either professional or academic, and use their studies in the U.K. to build their future in Jordan. Excellent command of English and some relevant work experience is favourable. The maximum age is 40.

Jennifer Hamarneh

bulletin board

WHO NEEDS NIELSON'S RATINGS? Say so-long to Ridge, Caroline, Thorn, and Brooke: Jordan Television is wiping *The Bold and the Beautiful* off the air next month. In a highly calculated decision, and not a haphazard whim, JTV Director Nasser Judeh said he consulted educators, decision-makers, average viewers and even psychologists for several months prior to the decision to scratch the steamy serial from the airwaves. When push came to shove, the decision, said Mr. Judeh, centred on three major factors: with the show running for about two years to date, opinions about it are almost equally divided between pro and con; also the American series, started in the early 80s and which is still running in the U.S., will have to be stopped in Jordan at some stage as continuing it would require too long a commitment; and finally the price tag attached to the programme, poses a significant burden on the JTV budget because it is always a constant. So avid fans have another three to four weeks to catch their saga sweethearts before the screen goes black. Although no replacement programme has been decided upon, Mr. Judeh says it will certainly be more family oriented. Gee, isn't that what the Forresters were all about?

Are children's rights neglected?

Children in the Muslim Middle East
Edited by Elizabeth Warnock Fernea
Austin, University of Texas Press, 1995, 477 pages,
\$22.95.

CHILDREN WERE chosen as the subjects of this anthology on the premise that their situation is a neglected area, despite the growing volume of Middle East studies being published in the West. The 41 contributions from Arab, Turkish, Iranian and Western experts, cover a range of topics: Health, education, child labour, children's rights in Islam, child-rearing practices, children and the arts, and how politics and war impact on childhood. The book departs from dry academics by including selections such as children's songs and games, the first published translation of Ghassan Kanafani's story "The Small Lamp," and an assessment of the TV programme "Iftah Ya Simsim."

Many of the authors note how the spread of television has altered childhood. In an overview, Hassan Al Ibrahim cites research conducted by the American University in Cairo showing that "the Egyptian child spends an average of 33 hours in front of the television every week. This exceeds the time he spends in play, at school, with his parents, or in doing his homework" (p. 24). Ibrahim also cites statistics showing that half the children of the Arab World are physically threatened by the dangers of hunger, poverty and war. He questions whether modernisation, as enacted to date, has improved the quality of children's lives. To make his point conversely, he quotes a traveller to the Arabian peninsula in the last century, who wrote: "At the beginning of my living among the wandering Arabs I was very surprised to see the young,

whose ages range between three and twelve years, accompany their elders; they are permitted to converse with them, and they are at times consulted on subjects which surpass their level, and they are listened to... I have not seen in the whole world boys who are more sensible and more behaved..." Ibrahim concludes: "This was the Gulf child one hundred years ago. I wonder what has happened to him now!" (p. 28).

The child's position in the fissure between tradition and modernity is addressed in many chapters of the book. In her introduction, editor Fernea quotes an official of Morocco's Education Ministry who describes children as "pulled between two worlds" — that of their [often] illiterate parents and that of their "modern" peers: "At a time when old absolutes are crumbling and old values disregarded, what are young people to do?" (p. 4).

Children in The Muslim Middle East chronicles both the advances made for children and the many problems they and their families still face. While the selections are based on data collected in the 80s or even before, the issues have not lost their relevance. One example is a 1979 statement by the Cairo Family Planning Association about "Bodily Mutilation of Young Females" — a practice which is being heatedly contested in Egypt at this very moment.

A welcome inclusion in the book is an article by Evelyn Early on the children's plays sponsored by Syrian Baath Party youth groups. This is rather unique as it is seldom that Syrian cultural life is touched upon in Western publications.

The only disappointing chapter is the one on Lebanon. Here it would be reasonable to expect a broad coverage of how years of war have affected children psychologically, or in terms of education

or health. Instead, there is only one article on Lebanon, and the author, Kari H. Karame, focuses solely on a few hundred young women who fought with the Falangist Party militia in the initial phase of Lebanon's civil war.

Two chapters of this book are devoted to Jordan. One by Seteney Shami and Lucine Taminian describes family life in the Wadi neighbourhood of downtown Amman. The other is written by Staffan Janson, a Swedish doctor who was responsible for the joint Swedish-Jordanian project for developing maternal and child health care in Sweileh, from 1986 to 1989.

Dr. Janson acknowledges Jordan's undeniable gains: "Immunisation rates of children and pregnant mothers are the best in the whole region, and the [infant] mortality rate is lower than in any other comparable country" (p. 196). But he also points to many residual problems: Unsatisfactory nutritional levels among some sectors of the population; delayed diagnosis of mental retardation and neurological handicaps; high risk of children being involved in home or traffic accidents; failure to address the phenomenon of child abuse; and the fact that "the school system is very conservative and demanding from the first day" (p. 195).

Those working in child-related fields can use this volume as a reference for assessing what has been accomplished since the 1980s, which one of the contributors described as "the decade of the emergence of awareness of the dangers that threaten the nation's future due to neglect of children's rights" (p. 20).

Sally Bland

BOOK REVIEW



Nice character

By Jean-Claude Elias

IF a statistical study were carried out to find what is the most popular personal computer application programme, word processing (WP) would win, and by far. WP has not only made conventional typewriters obsolete, it has also changed our attitude towards writing and the way we communicate.

One of the earliest WP machines, launched in 1981 was the CP/T, a registered name that meant Computer Power Typing. The system was based on hardware that was small and friendly enough to be considered as "personal." CPT equipment and software however were not compatible with other systems. Moreover, the printers that would connect to them used the then traditional daisy wheel printing technology.

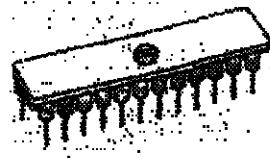
Close to IBM's famous ball system daisy wheels produced a very high quality of printout but were very slow compared to current laser printers for example. Because of obvious physical specifications, each daisy wheel offered only one font of characters, i.e. one typestyle, at one size.

The typestyle characterises the shape, the design, the style of the character, while the size is a measurement of how large it is. Known typestyles are Times, Roman, Euro-style, Arial, Courier, Clarendon, Britannic, Albertus, Garamond and so on. The size is usually expressed as a multiple of the fraction 1/72 of an inch, called point. In a newspaper, body text is usually printed at 10 or 12 points while headlines may be printed at 40, 60 or more points. Those who work in the printing or publishing industry are familiar with these terms.

Each time a user wanted to use a different font, he had to change the wheel or the ball. On average, one would buy four to six wheels to be able to give some variety to the text. Affordable modern laser printers have revolutionised WP by changing all that. They allow PC users to manipulate tens, hundreds of fonts simultaneously without the need to replace any hardware like daisy wheels or balls, and while preserving, if not improving, the printout quality. As far as speed is concerned the progress ratio is an amazing 50 to one, approximately.

Such facilities have led to chaos in the realm of fonts. The standard MS-Windows system provides about 20 typestyles that one can scale almost to any size — more than enough to satisfy most users. Software designers however didn't stop there. Almost every additional programme you would install under Windows will bring with it a few fonts. Install MSWord, Borland's Quattro or any other, and you will see that they have added fonts to their own. That other Windows programmes can naturally share.

chip talk



With three or four programmes, one would end with say 50 fonts.

PC users are known to be a rather greedy species. Counting on that quality, fonts designers have made it a point to give them as many fonts as they can take. You can now buy complete collections of fonts available on floppy disks or CD-ROM. It is not uncommon to find sets containing 400 or 600 fonts, for as little as JD10 or JD20. Such sets can easily be added to the ones already available under Windows.

Greedy has its drawbacks. Fonts take space from the hard disk and from the main memory of your PC. They also tend to slow the opening, the start-up of Windows. Installing an excessive number of them on your system will definitely make it heavier to run. Besides, choosing a font from a set of a few hundreds is not a simple operation. Another aspect that many neglect is that in a large collection of typestyles, there will be necessarily several ones that will look almost the same.

Those who use computers to do graphic design and publishing certainly need to have a wider choice of fonts available to them than say, a journalist. Whatever the need, it is difficult to imagine why one would have 500 fonts for example. One of the CD-ROM discs supplied with Corel, a well-known graphic design and drawing software, offers as many as 700 typestyles. For having attempted to explore them, I know that it gave me more headache than pleasure.

Abundance is not always a good thing in personal computing. Those who load their PC hundreds of fonts or with six different WP programmes (yes, I have seen that too) lose speed functionality and waste precious disk space and memory resources. On the other hand personal computing is also an ideal field for experimenting with technology while enjoying it, not necessarily in view of higher productivity. Therefore why shouldn't one be allowed to play with hundreds of fonts?

Stories, poetry, mystery and adventure

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

TWO WRITERS embodying the modern Hispanic tradition are the Spanish poet Federico Garcia Lorca (1898-1936) and the Colombian writer and novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez (1927-).

In 1967, in Buenos Aires, a novel, by a Colombian writer only 40 years old, appeared for the first time. Today, there is hardly a language left to which that novel, 100 Years Of Solitude, has not been translated.

Marquez's most recent publication, News Of A Kidnapping, is a narrative of real life events and kidnappings which took place in Colombia in the early part of the 1990s. Of the book itself, Marquez says that the pain of those kidnapped, their patience, and their anger gave him the courage to complete the book which he admits was the most difficult task of his entire life.

He explains that his only frustration is knowing that not a single one of his victims will find in the book anything more than a faded reflection of the horror that they had to endure in real life.

This is always true in the sense that no matter how intense and graphic the prose is, whatever anyone attempts to write about oneself can only be a withered reflection of one's innermost feelings.

With a central theme of a deep frustration into which are woven the permutations of time, love and death, the works of Lorca are deeply rooted in Andalusian tradition. Because of this, he was the voice of the people for many illiterate Andalusians who recited his Gypsy Ballads without being able to read them. Love and death criss-crossed a lot in his poetry: Love as the essence of life and death as the obvious and necessary end of life.

It has been repeatedly written that even though Lorca was the most famous of his generation, he was not the best. This is a truth which conceals another. A truth.

On Record



maybe even a paradox, somewhat akin to the line of thought which states that light illuminates darkness, and you just cannot have both at the same time.

The gypsies of Andalusia and their world are the essence of most of his writing: Spirits, Flamenco and Andalusian folklore are a recurrent theme which he keeps coming back to over and over again.

Apart from his varied gifts as a dramatist, theatre director, actor, designer and poet, he also trained as a musician. According to his musical mentor, the composer Manuel De Falla, he had the talent to become an international concert pianist, had he ever wanted.

Needing to get free of Europe, Lorca arrived in New York in 1929 to enrol for a course in English at Columbia University. What happened was that he never did manage to learn anything as far as language was concerned. What he did manage to do was write some of the best poems he had written.

He was in Wall Street the morning of the crash. A crash which he described in 16 lines of graphic prose. Influenced by things he had witnessed, his New York poems contain a blistering indictment of the materialism and inhumanity he found in New York at the time. Things that can be found in any metropolis today.

Under the knife



Number of women who suffer female genital mutilation

Nigeria	33m
Ethiopia	24m
Egypt	24m
Sudan	10m
Kenya	7m
Somalia	4.5m

Mutilation is not required by any religion

It is designed to preserve virginity, ensure marriageability and contain sexuality

2m girls a year have all or some of their genitalia cut away

Source: UNICEF

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shugair

OBSERVATION TEST



Look at the above three illustrations carefully. There is something obviously wrong. Can you see, at a glance, what it is?

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- * She is a grass widow.
Innaha zawja manfasila an zawjeha.
- * She took the edge off her husband.
Laqad kasarat shawkata zawjeha.
- * She is the bane of his life.
Innaha munaghessa le-hayatehi.
- * I can't abide that woman.
La ateeq tilkal mar'a.
- * She bores me.
Innaha tab'ath al-malal fee nafsi.
- * She is jealous and envious.
Innaha ghayoorra wahasooda.
- * She is too difficult to deal with.
Yas'ob at'ta'amul ma'aha.
- * I'll bring an action against her.
Sawfa oqeem alayha da'wa.
- * I'm sure I'll win the case.
Ana muta'akkid be'annani sa'aksab al-qadiya.

LAUGH TIME

- * VIFE: "Let's go and have a look at the furs in that store."
- * HUSBAND: "I don't mind, but what about going to the zoo instead!"

- * THE FIRST: "What made you play cards with your wife?"
- * THE SECOND: "So as to get back my salary from her!"

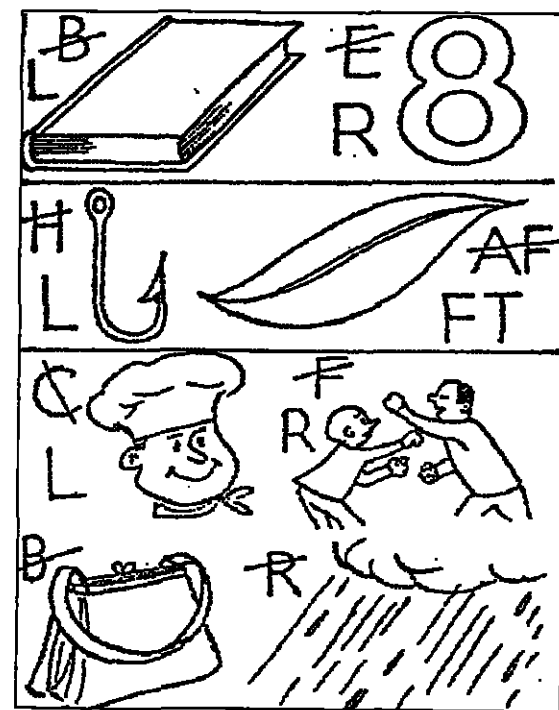
- * A MAN went to buy a gun. The salesman gave him what he wanted saying, "This is a wonderful gun with nine bullets."
- * "Nine bullets? Why? How many women do you think I've got married to?"

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What do we call a camel with one hump only?
2. What is pewee? A dingo? A pangolin?
3. How does a dog perspire?
4. How did dandelions get their names?

PUZZLES

(A) BEFORE CROSSING ROADS



Can you read this piece of good advice?

(B) INSERT THE WORD MISSING FROM THE BRACKETS:

- Chocolate (sweet) darling
- Hit (.....) puff

Female circumcisers defend 'sacred practice'

By Desmond Mng

FEMALE circumcision is sacred and life without it would be meaningless, according to the Bundo Society, which represents the Soweis who carry out the operation in Sierra Leone.

About 100 Soweis held a three-day workshop in Freetown to establish guidelines for the practice, involving the removal of some or all of the female genitalia and known to critics as female genital mutilation.

"We have taken the lead to discuss a very sacred institution affecting the lives of our youth and adult population," said Haja Isha Sasso, president of the National Council of Muslim Women. "It is a form of school where the initiates are taught useful acts of behaviour, social values and meaningful life-patterns," she commented.

One of the key workshop recommendations was an end to media discussion of the issue, with fines of between \$200,000 and \$500,000 for anyone breaking the silence.

Another is that female circumcision should not be performed on a child under 10.

A third, said Council spokesperson and broadcaster Haja Kadi Johnson, is that any Soweis carrying out the operation during holy days and religious periods — such as Fridays and Sundays, and the months of Ramadan or Lent — should be fined \$500,000.

The death of a 14-year-old Egyptian girl after a circumcision operation has increased calls for a government ban on the practice. But in Sierra Leone Soweis who do the job have held a three-day workshop and are calling for legislation to protect the ritual.

Lawyer Eithleen Kamara, who said she had been subjected to painful genital mutilation when she was 10, stormed out of the workshop as the proposals were read out.

"The proposals are outrageous and smack of attempts to take us to the dark ages," she said angrily. She was not alone. Women's groups denounced the proposals, and accused the Society of "trying to twist the arms of Parliament to enact an unpopular proposal into law."

They found the Society's stand particularly disappointing because it follows a recent decision by 21 Soweis in Mali to abandon the practice.

A spokesman of Sierra Leone's Medical and Dental Association said: "Mutilators are hiding behind the cloak of culture to bring death or permanent disability to our young ones."

"We shall fight these proposals to ensure they do not see the light of day."

The Association also warned against allowing hospitals to perform female

not want to marry uncircumcised women, who are then likely to be ostracised.

They would probably agree with the Bundo Society members at the workshop who said that the aim of the ritual "is to cut down on the sexual desires of girls who go into marriage immediately after initiation."

"It is an easy way to reduce their sexual promiscuity that would normally lead to friction in the home between husbands and wives."

Soweis also support the practice because it gives them status and considerable payments, not only in money but through gifts such as rice, palm oil and clothes.

Yoshio Koiko of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Sierra Leone describes female genital mutilation as an issue of great concern to the organisation.

"UNFPA will provide funding to youth groups and other organisations to help develop a consensus on female circumcision, as the continuation of the practice is a violation of human rights," she promised.

A government official, Dr. Bailah Leigh of the Ministry of Gender and Women's Affairs, was more cautious: "There is need for collaboration between those for and against mutilation to get a better understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of the (Bundo) Society — Gemini News."

JTV WEEKLY PROGRAMME NOT RECEIVED

In toughness, vulnerability, James Dean was cooler than even he knew

By Ted Anthony
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — They still go for it in high school. They try real hard — try to look as if they're not trying at all. They lean against lockers and hang out in shopping malls, jeans pegged, faces clouded with brooding looks, waiting for girls to come along. And the girls do.

This is cool — an enduring, modern, youthful, collective-unconscious cool embodied in the attractiveness of alienation, the magnetism of vulnerability, the simmering sensuality of self-imposed isolation.

Much of today's cool came from one man — one moody boy, really: James Dean.

He was a man encumbered with the world's weight and an overabundance of sex appeal, a poster boy for the tortured netherworld between child and adult. Eyes deep, hair tousled, body brimming with emotion so obvious, yet so hidden.

That was James Dean: haunted antihero, sensitive male of a pre-sensitive age. Tough when provoked, tender when encouraged.

Forever adolescent — be it Jim Stark of *Rebel Without A Cause*, Cal Trask of *East Of Eden* or even Jett Rink of *Giant*, who was allowed to age but not grow into a man.

Each character was running from something — each desperate to take family, world, friend, loves, and pick them all apart with conflict and heartache, then somehow reassemble them into some newly chiseled sense of belonging.

This weekend, 41 years after Dean died at the age of 24 in a car crash, *Giant*, for which he received a posthumous Academy Award nomination, is being rereleased to a world filled with people who may never have seen his movies but undoubtedly know of the actor who many believe never really knew himself.

"I gotta know who I am," Dean's Cal Trask says. "I gotta know what I'm like." Today he is — like all good, prematurely deceased icons from John F. Kennedy to Kurt Cobain — whatever his public wants.

Dean remains fresh despite a limited oeuvre of bit parts, stage appearances, scattered television shows and, of course, three memorable starring roles in movies he made before death came at a rural California intersection.

Why does he endure? In a word: Cool. The iconography of modern cool — white cool, at least — starts with James Dean.

There was cool before him, but it was different — John Wayne's hold-on-there-pilgrim cowboy and soldier; Humphrey Bogart's haunted, cynical loner; Cary Grant's suave bachelor. Yet when we summon archetypal male cool today, we think this: Young, remote, pained, handsome. Blue jeans, T-shirt, jacket, cigarette, dares and oneupmanship.

Youth cool. Youth culture. James Dean arguably was father of it all, of greasers, of Elvis. And maybe even father of the 1950s' juvenile delinquency obsession — something that proved to be a far wider epidemic of postwar youth discontent that widened into the 1960s.

"He was everything the 1950s wanted him to be," says Crockett. Holden Caulfield, Jean-Paul Sartre, General Eisenhower, with a little Oscar Wilde and Jesus Christ thrown in," Richard Martin, curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, wrote this month in out, a gay magazine. He calls Dean "the gay man's Mona Lisa."

It was no accident that this image surfaced after World War II.

People were returning from battle and having families, and the beginning of the baby boom injected adolescence into the culture like never before — a process that continues unabated.

Dean tapped into this, probably very consciously; many have said he crafted his public persona as painstakingly as his roles.

"It is as if he knew," Martin wrote, "That style is one of the few principles that abide."

Did Dean's youth cool last because it was the first?



James Dean

Unlikely.

You can make the argument that Marlon Brando invented this brand of cool. His definitive cool role, *On The Waterfront*, on the heels of *A Streetcar Named Desire* and the motorcycle anthem *The Wild One*, came out a year before Dean's first movie, *East Of Eden*, some criticized Dean then, saying he emulated Brando's style to the point of outright imitation.

This assertion, though, fails on two accounts. First, Brando, more the mumbling rebel, lacked the raw sensitivity and vulnerability that Dean most certainly had.

Second, Dean lived fast, died young, left a good-looking corpse.

Brando lived fast, grew old and became a corpulent parody of himself, replacing the memory of strapping youth with an image far less appealing.

James Dean — a short but bright body of work

James Dean starred in only three films in his brief career. But each made an impact, and each endured:

East Of Eden (1955): Dean plays Cal Trask, the troubled son of Adam Trask and brother of the polished Aron Trask in this adaptation of John Steinbeck's biblical allegory about a boy trying desperately to win his father's love. This was Dean's debut to the world, and he played it with flair — slurring his words, skulking around, giving life to the troubled-youth persona.

Rebel Without A Cause (1955): A day in the life of Jim Stark, tortured youth starting at a new school

"Brando lived too long," says Steven Alford, a film critic and liberal arts professor at Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

"It's like Hendrix," Alford says. "He was going to start playing with Miles Davis when he died. Following his own interests would have marginalized him. And had Janis Joplin lived, she would have been a fat sloppy drunk on stage."

"I'm sure James Dean would have done the same thing. Or perhaps he would have had some kind of trajectory like Nick Nolte — the young, handsome athletic type who is not taken seriously but does more intriguing roles as he ages but still becomes a sort of middle-rank actor."

But he didn't. And the work he left behind shows a surprising attempt to control not only the emotion of his films but their actual scenery. He crouched atop trains, frolicked in bean fields and climbed trellises in *East Of Eden*; raced "Chickie runs" and turned an empty mansion into a playground in *Rebel Without A Cause*; obsessively paced his land and defiantly soaked up a powerful thunderstorm in *Giant*.

It was as if he could ignore his tumultuous emotional landscape by controlling the physical one. But it never worked.

Even in *Giant*, the epic film for the epic youth, he remained a boy. They put gray in his hair, thinned it, put a mustache on him and made him 50. But the rich, powerful and studiously cool oil tycoon still ended up a drunk, crying, vulnerable boy at what should have been his greatest moment.

"In his portrayal of Jett Rink, Jimmy managed to incorporate his essential persona: The outsider trying to live in a society that does not want him even when he mimics its behavior," David Dalton wrote in his 1974 book *James Dean: The Mutant King*.

Above even acceptance, though, the Dean spirit wanted love. In *East Of Eden*, Abra (Julie Harris) tells Adam Trask (Raymond Massey), the father who withholds craved affection from Cal Trask (Dean): "You have to give him some sign that you love him or else he'll never be a man."

James Dean — the James Dean we remember, whether that's the real one or not — died before receiving that love. The public Dean persona died haunted, never belonging, never finding the acceptance he so wanted — and that failure created the isolation necessary for calculated cool.

He careened across the proscenium as he did through life — pushing, pulling, climbing, running and pouring his way to iconhood. He died before he could undermine himself, and in his death tricked us into believing that time can stop and myth can endure, frozen in memory's amber.

Two people, James the cool and Jimmy the vulnerable, both taken from the world too soon by the as-yet unexpressed rock 'n' roll mantra of the youth culture they helped father: Better to burn out than to fade away.

Death, it turned out, was one ingenious public relations move for James Dean. It created the lasting, empty-vessel idol of misguided adolescence that was — and remains — his greatest continuing performance.

and trying to make new friends — including introverted loner Plato (Sal Mineo) and misguided teenage girl Judy (Natalie Wood). This film, more than anything, established Dean's rebellious image.

Giant (1956): Released after Dean's death, this epic about two generations of a Texas family cast Dean as interloping outsider Jett Rink, a brooding ranch hand who falls for the lady of the ranch (Elizabeth Taylor) and clashes with her husband (Rock Hudson) before striking oil on his small parcel of land and becoming rich but never really happy.

Film industry finally gets its antiquities together

By Lynn Elber
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hard to believe, but even Hollywood's narcissism has its limits. Decade after decade, efforts to establish a film museum in the city most closely connected with the industry have flopped.

Paris, meanwhile, is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the respected La Cinematheque Francaise. New York saw the American Museum of the Moving Image founded in 1988. London has its own well-regarded institution.

But in the world's movie capital, there's been a sad parade of failed ventures, undone variously by rivalry, inflated ambition, theft and, most oddly, by industry indifference to its rich past.

Now, with help from government and business, Hollywood heritage is finally getting a little respect.

The Hollywood Entertainment Museum plans an Oct. 5 grand opening in a jazzy building in an appropriate part of Los Angeles: On Hollywood Boulevard, just down from Mann's Chinese Theatre and its famed cement

The museum, a tribute to radio, TV and music as well as film, boasts sleek art deco lines, splashy lavender colour and exhibits ranging from Cheers and Star Trek sets to sophisticated video displays on filmmaking. A

job bank is planned, as are seminars. But the museum will have to fight for glamour, if not respectability, in a ragged neighbourhood. Cheap souvenir stores, walk of fame sidewalk stars and Frederick's of Hollywood lingerie racks complete the scant tourist attractions. Transients, addicts and prostitutes linger. And it's not far from where Hugh Grant had his rendezvous with Divine Brown.

Museum President Phyllis Caskey is unfazed. The facility's role, she says, is at once to educate the public about the industry and to help revitalize the neighbourhood it has joined.

"We're no longer in a world in which a museum is on the outskirts of town and sits there as this icon," she said. "I look at the museum as a community participant and a catalyst for other things."

So do others. That's why the \$10 million institution has received a hefty \$2.5 million from the City Community Redevelopment Agency, which is working to revitalize the area a few miles northwest of downtown. All told, officials estimate \$100 million in public and private money is earmarked for dozens of new projects or expansions in this shabby slice of Los Angeles long deserted by most of the studios.

Among the film-related newcomers: Yet another movie museum and renovation of the landmark Egyptian Theatre as home of the American Cinematheque Society. It was the big picture that won support for the Hollywood Entertainment Museum, according to former State Senator David Roberti, who represented Hollywood and began working on the project in 1984.

"Finally, the city of Los Angeles realised that development in Hollywood wasn't just one councilmanic district kind of thing," Mr. Roberti said. "The image of Hollywood, whether the city likes it or not, is the image of Los Angeles. Something finally connected."

Woman and an array of old filmmaking equipment.

The campaign drew the support of big stars like Rosalind Russell and big cash donations, said film historian Marc Wanamaker.

But the price tag soared into the tens of millions of dollars, there were allegations of mismanagement and the project crumbled, he said. Much of the collection was loaned to schools and libraries; the rest met a sordid fate.

Stored in an abandoned Los Angeles jail, the Dietrich tux and other items vanished and were presumed stolen. Water from burst pipes and dirt ruined others.

In the 1980s, other enthusiasts tried. A relocated barn used to film Cecil B. De Mille's *The Squaw Man* became home to the modest Hollywood Studio Museum, staffed by volunteers and giving a "wonderful view of the early days of filmmaking," said Wanamaker.

Its inability to draw enough tourists, opposition to expansion and political strife within the museum's support group doomed it, Wanamaker said.

All the while, symbols of Hollywood's past were being donated piecemeal to institutions such as the county's Natural History Museum, tossed away or auctioned off — remember Dorothy's ruby slippers? — as studios changed hands or simply cleaned

James Dean's final film 40 years later — restored form

By Bob Thomas
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The 1956 epic *Giant* might be a half-remembered film classic except for one tragic happenstance: James Dean was killed in a car crash when filming was almost completed.

The Dean connection and his subsequent elevation to icon added to the movie's reputation. Now Warner Bros. is rereleasing a fully restored version for a 40th anniversary celebration.

George Stevens directed the adaptation of Edna Ferber's sprawling novel about two generations of Texans, winning an Academy Award as best director of 1956. *Giant* drew nine other nominations, including best picture, best actor nods for Dean and Rock Hudson, and a nomination for Mercedes McCambridge for supporting actress. The saga became Warner's biggest moneymaker up to that time.

Alas, Hollywood studios are notorious for neglecting their valuable assets, and over the years *Giant* fell into disrepair.

"The original sound track was lost," says George Stevens Jr., who worked with his father during filming and editing, and now served as overseer for the film's restoration in the past year. Stevens Jr. recalled that one of the closing scenes of *Giant* had brought Dean and the elder Stevens into an intense partnership.

"This became more dramatic because Jimmy was to die three weeks later. He had to do that drunken scene at the banquet, and he had difficulty with it. He asked dad if he could work on it. Dad and Jimmy spent two nights until midnight working on that scene."

"Jimmy was 23 trying to play a man in his 50s. He asked dad to act out the scene. It was a fascinating collaboration between a young man and an older man."

Three weeks later, everyone was in the projection room; dad always invited the actors to see the dailies. He never allowed phone calls, but the phone rang.

"Carroll Baker recalls the look on dad's face. I was in the air force at the time, and she assumed that something had happened to me. But it was news that Jimmy had collided his Porsche Spider with a truck up on the highway."

Giant was Stevens Sr.'s first independent film after a career of working for the studios, starting at Hal Roach with Laurel and Hardy comedies and moving on to such features as *Swing Time* (Astaire and Rogers), *Gunga Din*, *Woman Of The Year* (Tracy-Hepburn), *The More The Merrier*. I Remember Mama, A

Place In The Sun and Shane. Finally independent of studio control, Stevens made all the major decisions for *Giant*. He tried something different in casting the leads. "This was a picture that spanned generations, Stevens Jr. points out, "and you would usually get actors and 'age them down' for the young parts of the picture; the older parts are more to their age."

"In this case, dad chose two 23-year-olds (Dean and Elizabeth Taylor) and a 28-year-old (Hudson). The film started at their actual ages, and they aged upward."

The reissued film, Stevens says, takes advantage of some recent technology. "In some respects, it improves on the original. When *Giant* was released, it was not in the Technicolor process. Except for the damaged portions, which are dups, the fidelity of the picture is probably better than it ever was," he says.

"These nightmares of the ways films were treated for so long keep surfacing. Fortunately, we were able to find a magnetic soundtrack that combined dialogue, music and effects instead of having them separated. That's the bad news. The good news is that because of today's digital technology and a brilliant sound mixer, Bob Litt, we were able to recreate a sound track that is as good as the original, and in some respects has greater fidelity."

The restoration team learned that Warner Bros. had made 400 prints from the negative before making "separations," that's the process of creating three separate negatives in the primary colours so the colour fidelity can be preserved forever.

"There was some built-in damage to the negative," explains Stevens, himself a director and producer. For years, Technicolor operated what was called a dye-transfer, three-strip printing process. That was abandoned for economy reasons in 1974; the last film in the process was *The Godfather, Part II*.

Stevens had heard that Technicolor was planning to resurrect the process. Ron Jarvis, president of Technicolor, agreed to make *Giant* the pilot project. New prints were made with the dye-transfer process.

"There would have been great rumblings from heaven if I were to mess with my father's picture," says Stevens.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Initiative is doing the right thing without being told.
— Victor Hugo, French writer (1802-1885).

War is a contagion.
— Franklin D. Roosevelt, U.S. President (1882-1945).

You may prove anything by figures.
— Thomas Carlyle, Scottish writer (1795-1881).

Better to wear out than rust out.
— Richard Cumberland, English philosopher (1631-1718).

Probe will help protect a million women

By William Comet

MORE THAN a million women worldwide could be prevented from developing cervical cancer each year thanks to a probe device being tested by gynaecologists at a London hospital. Further modifications to the probe should also make it ideal as a screening tool in developing countries and, equally importantly, in the detection of a range of other cancers in both men and women.

Only the breast is more susceptible to cancer than the cervix, according to global research figures published by the International Journal of Cancer. However, a team of doctors led by Professor Albert Singer and Dr. Tim Mould at the Whittington Hospital in Archway, North London, are optimistic that the Polarprobe — a pencil-shaped device developed in prototype form in the last few years — is close to fulfilling its promise radically to improve the current screening process with dramatic results.

Poor screening

"Each year at least 600,000 women are known to develop cervical cancer and about three-quarters of these are in developing countries where screening techniques are often poor," says Dr. Mould. An estimated 500,000 women with the disease are thought to go undetected each year.

To minimise fatalities, doctors need to catch the disease before it has become invasive and ideally in its early, pre-cancerous state, when the first stage of cell abnormality occurs. With the new system, instead of taking smears — a process which is good but far from foolproof and is often impractical in many countries because of a lack of laboratories and other key facilities — doctors pass a probe over the cervix and the device emits beams of both light and low-voltage electricity.

Instant diagnosis

The resulting pattern of signals emitted by the cervical cells is then analysed by a specially modified laptop computer to provide an instant basic diagnosis. The computer stores a catalogue of normal and abnormal cell profiles against which the probe's data is compared. Either the cells are normal or there is an abnormality which requires closer examination by a hospital gynaecologist using a special microscope — the fool-proof, diagnostic colposcope.

The probe's components include light-emitting diodes and electrical components to generate the beam and voltage which are transported to the tip of the probe by fibre optics. A photo-electric diode converts the emissions from the cell back into an electrical signal. Initial tests using the probe have been very impressive with a detection rate exceeding 90 per cent and the Whittington team believes that the probe will prove far more accurate and sensitive than the smear.

They are also confident that a small disposable version of the probe will be available within five years because much of the necessary technology is already

available. The device, costing perhaps just £14 and the size of a small torch, may incorporate a meter or a red light to provide a simple instant diagnosis of a patient's condition overcoming some of the key problems associated with existing screening methods.

The cervical smear, the mostly widely used and most established technique, is insufficiently sensitive to detect all abnormalities. And even if its sensitivity is enhanced it increasingly fails to distinguish between important dangerous cells and those abnormalities which are perhaps due to a minor inflammation and therefore pose a negligible risk.

Draining resources

As a consequence of this lack of specificity, many thousands (and, in countries like the United States, even millions) of women are unnecessarily referred to hospitals for examination by colposcope, draining scarce resources. This also increases psychologically related problems for patients, such as a loss of libido.

Even though the cancer can have an incubation period of several years — often up to 10 years in its pre-cancerous state — doctors still urge women to have repeat smears at regular intervals to minimise risks, including the possibility of any false screening results. The new technique not only sidesteps these problems, it also has significant other advantages.

Deeper malignancies

The seven-inch probe's active components can already be shrunk to the size of a hybrid microchip smaller than the size of a fingernail. If the wave forms of light and the electric stimulation to cells provided by the probe's emissions can be modified, then, says Professor Singer, "it has the potential to be used in sites where deeper malignancies occur such as breast and prostate."

The chip technology should allow the probe to be used in endoscopes. "You could even envisage the technology being put into a device that can be swallowed," he adds. "But the 'workbench' for the research has to be the cervix because it's easily accessible and its the only internal organ where we can study, at ease, the pre-cancer stages. There is no other internal organ that allows us to do that."

Apart from the probe's instantaneous readout and diagnosis, the other main advantage is its potential for being simplified and therefore being used in the Third World, says Professor Singer.

He believes that the smear is too complicated for the Third World, because "there are too many links" in the process. "If you really want to get into the depths of the Third World where the invasive cancers are, then you will need a very simple device. The probe offers the potential for such a device" — LPS Feature.

Africa moves to slow the spread of AIDS

New U.N. body to support Africa's community-based efforts to battle HIV

By Margaret A. Novicki

AFRICA IS a "forerunner" in proving one of the main lessons of the past decade's fight against AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) — that "prevention can work." And it is also at the forefront of positive responses to the epidemic, with a network of community-based and non-governmental organisations which have actively "taken on this disease," says Dr. Peter Piot, executive director of the recently created Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS), which is based in Geneva.

"What we are starting to see now is really a slowing of the spread of HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus) which causes AIDS in several (African) countries," said Dr. Piot, a Belgian physician and microbiologist who has worked on AIDS for over a decade, citing Uganda and Zimbabwe as examples. In Zimbabwe, he noted, there is a decline in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) which fuel the epidemic, as well as a "very high increase in condom use." There has also been limited success in containing the virus' spread within smaller communities — "from sex workers in Kinshasa, Zaire, to the workplace in Zambia for instance," Dr. Piot explained.

While only preliminary, these positive indicators are nonetheless good news for the continent that has been the hardest hit so far by the AIDS epidemic. Africa is home to 13 million adults living with HIV, or 65 per cent of the world's total, according to latest estimates from UNAIDS. Of the 7,500 new infections that occur daily worldwide, 50 per cent are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Women bear a particularly harsh burden. Close to eight million sub-Saharan women are HIV-positive — out of 10 million women infected worldwide — and have transmitted the virus to as many as one million children in the womb, during childbirth, or through breast-feeding.

The experience of the last 10 years, said Dr. Piot, has shown that controlling the epidemic involves much more than promoting condoms or safer sex. "You also need to provide an environment that is enabling people to make use of these preventive measures, to make sure the options are there. What are the options for poor women in particular to say no to unwanted sex?" he asked.

Indeed, the complexity of the issues surrounding HIV and AIDS is only beginning to be understood. The first step has been reaching a consensus and raising awareness that AIDS is more than a health problem, but also a development problem, and perhaps nowhere more so than in Africa. Many of the "driving forces" of the epidemic, Dr. Piot explained, have to do with "deeply rooted societal and cultural factors" such as the status of women, poverty and migration.

In Africa, the spread of HIV has followed population movements, often fuelled by poverty and lack of economic prospects, as well as by wars and instability. HIV also finds fertile ground where issues of poverty, gender and powerlessness intersect. Due to their subordinate socio-economic status, women may have difficulty exerting control over their sexual lives. They may also lack information about HIV prevention and access to affordable health care, particularly for the treatment of STDs, which, along with other conditions such as infibulation and genital scarring, increase susceptibility to HIV.

Striking men and women primarily in their most productive years, AIDS affects critical sectors of the workforce, both urban and rural, and ultimately impacts on overall economic performance. The epidemic's indirect costs — the value of lost economic output through morbidity and early death — are difficult to measure, but nonetheless substantial. Dr. Piot cited case studies of countries which may lose 10-15 per cent of their teachers to AIDS.

There are direct costs as well, which are mainly health-related. By the year 2000, the World Bank estimates that costs of care for people living with HIV and AIDS in Africa will double, rising to \$347 mn per year. But the heaviest socio-economic impact falls "on individuals and households which are on the verge of poverty," according to Dr. Piot, because the disease attacks the breadwinners — those responsible for the care and support of children, the elderly and other members of the extended family.

While virtually every African country now has a national AIDS programme, there is still a "heavy stigma" attached to the disease at the official level, Dr. Piot pointed out. This is manifested in a continued denial of the severity of the epidemic's impact and a lack of commitment to address it by some government leaders.

Even those who have acknowledged the gravity of the

public health threat may ignore the epidemic's wider socio-economic impact, focusing only on the clinical aspect of the disease and its treatment. This is not a particularly constructive approach when Africa's health systems are already in crisis and health budgets, in some cases no more than \$10 per capita per year, cannot cope with the epidemic's costs.

The most effective line of response, said Dr. Piot, is at the community level: First "to make AIDS more visible" and then "to strengthen the link between care, support and prevention." The pioneer of this approach is The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO) in Uganda, which has served as a model for many other such organisations around the continent. With its theme of "Positive Living with AIDS," TASO offers counselling and training to people with HIV and AIDS and their families as well as community outreach programmes which provide thousands of people with information, medical care and material support.

Other African initiatives

But there are also many other lesser-known initiatives under way around the continent which seek to mitigate the socio-economic impact of HIV and AIDS and to provide support where governments are unable or unwilling to do so. Among them are:

— The Women and AIDS Support Network in Zimbabwe, which conducts informational campaigns about how HIV affects women;

— the Salvation Army Hospital in Chikankata, Zambia, which links home-based care to community prevention programmes;

— St. Martin's Clinic in Agomanya, Ghana, which has launched income-generating activities in order to provide women with options other than commercial sex work;

— David Whitehead Textile and the Commercial Farmers' Union in Zimbabwe, which conduct workplace-based AIDS information and education programmes;

— WAMATA in Tanzania, which helps to strengthen community care for children who have lost one or both parents to AIDS and provides material support to families affected by HIV and AIDS;

— Undugu Society in Kenya, which undertakes AIDS education and care for street children; and

— the Philly Lutaaya Initiative in Uganda, which encourages people with HIV to go public, educate the community and minimise stigma and discrimination.

Central to any effective response to the epidemic, said Dr. Piot, are two core elements. One is a legal and ethical environment which protects and supports the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS. The second is a commitment to involving people living with HIV and AIDS in raising awareness, in policy discussions, and in lobbying for their rights. Africa has made progress in these areas by launching continent-wide networks.

UNAIDS actively seeks to involve such individuals and organisations in its work, and has at least two HIV-positive persons on its governing board. Superseding the World Health Organisation's Global Programme on AIDS, UNAIDS became operational in January 1996 and also encompasses the AIDS programmes of the U.N. Development Programme, the U.N. Children's Fund, the U.N. Population Fund, the U.N. Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and the World Bank. It was devised to facilitate "joint planning for the U.N. response to the AIDS epidemic so that we speak with one voice and we can increase our support to the countries," said Dr. Piot.

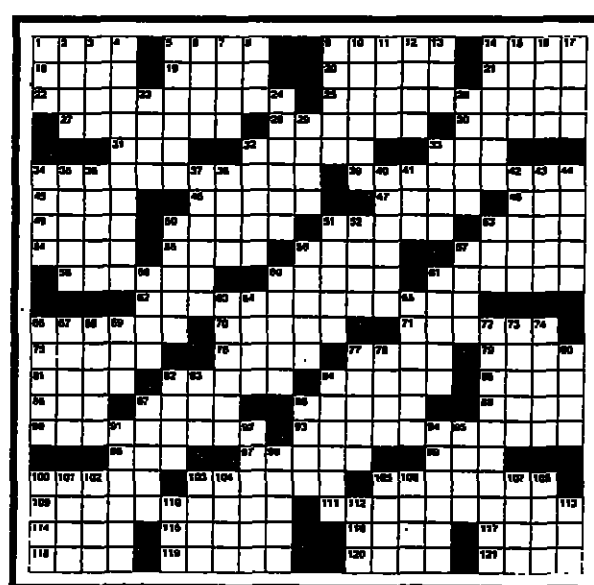
Donors and some of the most affected countries, such as Uganda and Thailand, which had been critical of perceived overlap in AIDS programmes in the past, are now looking at UNAIDS as "a more efficient and effective response of the U.N. system, an experiment in coordination," Dr. Piot said. UNAIDS will act as a mobiliser, he explained, leveraging support not only from the co-sponsors, but also from partners outside the U.N. system. It will also concentrate on the development of "best practices" — bringing together the collective experiences of the co-sponsoring agencies to determine what have been the most successful approaches to the epidemic.

Africa will be a focal point for UNAIDS programmes "because of the stage of its epidemic, because of the experience that is there — we will make it clear to the world that a lot of what we can do about AIDS was developed in Africa — and because of a greater need for external assistance in many African countries," Dr. Piot said. "There is a commitment we have" — Africa Recovery.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

THE GAME OF THE NAME
By Dorothy B. Martin

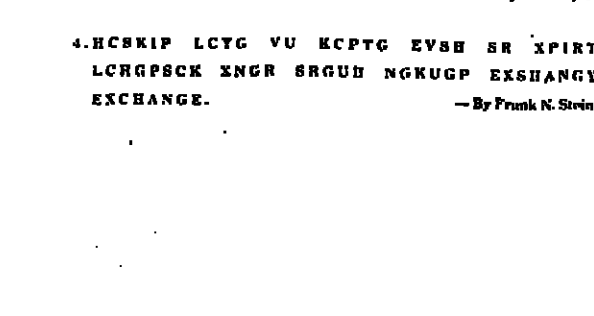
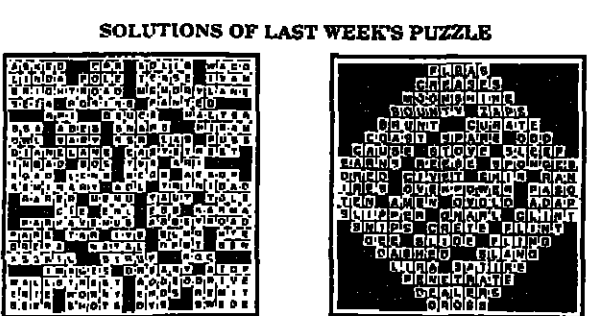
- ACROSS
1. Spanish capital
 2. State or nation
 3. Greeting
 4. Famous
 5. The Turner of Hollywood
 6. Eagle's nest
 7. U.S. plant
 8. Travel for singer
 9. Don't
 10. Gem for Sharon?
 11. In a line
 12. manner
 13. Dresses carefully
 14. Parkland
 15. "Home"
 16. Union general
 17. Pie — made
 18. Pledge flag for
 19. COW
 20. Morning moisture
 21. Pub drink
 22. Endures, as a
 23. Search
 24. Power machine
 25. Title of nobility
 26. Actor Griffin
 27. School cheer
 28. Challenge
 29. Mended shoes, in a way
 30. Mon or Gray
 31. Vase
 32. Villain
 33. Workman
 34. Unhappy
 35. Unhappy
 36. TV's Sawyer
 37. Takes an oblique course
 38. Summer cooler for
 39. Wild in
 40. Summertime, briefly
 41. Mayday
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- DOWN
1. Evolution, although slower, has won out over revolution in the long run
 2. Sifter in desert takes instant photographs of a beautiful mirage, but at sunset all the images disappear
 3. Prison chain gang felon placed his sledge on rigid edge of ledge
 4. Game gourmet turns to bland quiche and dry shish kebabs. Quits cold turkey
 5. LTQSSD AUB BQJ XAPM YJKA TPMKRTQX JYCKUD QJH ATHPTM CYM ENRQU BQJ
 6. RID KICK ST NIKERH HAIT EICCLE RIDK ASK RIDDLE DIDRIET DIDDLE
 7. NORL NUPELAN TURT OS SUBAT LOV UHM BUK SE NIP LOT CAPRA MOFA. FEEN GUNVAN TUKT LA LUS V FORDIT NODA GUS SEE
 8. HCBKIP LCTG VU KCPTG EYVB SR XPINT LCRGPECK XNER SRGUD NGKUP EXSHANGV EXCHANGE
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Diagramless, 17x17
By Don Johnson

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Taking drugs for common pain may do harm — expert

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Taking medication for life's more common aches and pains often does more harm than good, an expert in pain management said Sunday.

"You do not want to risk your life treating minor symptoms," James Fries, professor of medicine at California's Stanford University, said at the American Medical Association's science reporters' conference.

Pain medication is taken for minor musculoskeletal problems more frequently than for anything else, Dr. Fries said. One example is non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, taken by millions of Americans each day to relieve arthritis or muscular pain. Abdominal pain is a common side effect of NSAIDs, which cause one-third of bleeding ulcers, Dr. Fries said.

"By taking a short term view of pain, one actually increases lifetime pain," Dr. Fries said.

In addition, many NSAID users also take antacids to suppress the side effects of the drug, but end up masking the very symptoms that would point to a bleeding ulcer.

"An excessive concern with pain relief gave us an epidemic of 10,000 to 20,000 deaths from bleeding ulcers each year, and hospitalisations from the same condition for another 100,000 to 200,000," Dr. Fries said.

Dr. Fries said pain is an important defence mechanism that tells people to remove their hand from a hot stove.

He said recent studies suggest that low back pain responds best when you do nothing. Pain relievers allow muscles to relax, preventing back spasms that hold the spine immobile and prevent injury.

People are often disappointed when their doctor tells them to simply take an Aspirin instead of "heavy-duty pain relievers," Dr. Fries said.

"We would like educated patients comfortable with their physician when he says to take acetaminophen, rather than the strong, dangerous stuff," he said.

ANSWERS

OBSERVATION TEST

1. The bus-driver is on the wrong side of the bus. (According to the British traffic laws).
2. Britannia is the wrong way round.
3. A big, heavy man is unlikely to stand on the edge of ice where a boy has fallen in.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A dromedary.
2. Pewter: A silvery-grey alloy of tin and lead.
3. A DINGO: A wild, or half-domesticated, dog of Australia.
4. A pangolin: A species of scaly ant-eater that rolls up into a ball for protection, in the same way as a hedgehog.
5. Through its tongue.
6. From the French "dent de lion," referring to the toothed edges of the leaves.

PUZZLES

(A) BEFORE CROSSING ROADS

- Look right.
- Look left.
- Look right again.

(B) WORD MISSING: BLOW. (The word in the middle has the same meaning as the two words at either side; a hit is a blow, and to blow is to puff.)

Features

'Preservation through appreciation, awareness and historical knowledge' is the message of artist Khammash

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

The school bell strikes and the adolescent pre-Tawjihi students typically scramble out of the school gates to the nearest alley to light up their cigarettes and revel in recounting the near-debilitating pranks they had managed to inflict upon their wretched physics teacher that day. Before splitting up into smaller groups to go home, they engage in small talk, telling each other of the basketball game they would be going to later that afternoon, the videos they had rented out the day before.

Characteristically, a smaller, quieter group of students also hurriedly — though not rowdily — makes its way out of the school gates. They are hardly noticed; these are the unfashionably conscientious students, known as "nerds" to their basketball and skateboard-loving colleagues. They do not talk often about sports, girls, the latest Kawasaki motorcycles, but about membership cards at the British Council library and the TOEFL registration dates at the Amideast. In the absence of such exhilarating and enthralling topics, they simply discuss next week's exam.

The above categories usually cover most types of students. Well, not quite. A lone student, Ammar Khammash, makes his way out of the Terra Sancta School gates, alone, and walks several hundred metres away from the school premises to the Jabal Weibdeh "service taxi" line. There, he awaits one of many "Mercedes Benzes, model 190," that had their heyday in the time of Musolini. Eventually, he arrives to the Abdali bus terminal and boards the Ajloun-bound bus. His intended destination is the tiny rural village of Kufranja. What's more, Ammar has to be back home before sunset, for the season is that of Ramadan, and failing to join his family for the traditional breaking of the day's fast is unthinkable. And all the more so given that they know nothing of his excursion into the northern hinterland.

Unperturbed, he perseveres in his journey, his singular goal fully intact and focused. Even the charm-

ingly festive Arabic "Dirbakkeh" percussion ensembles, so often part of long bus journeys in Jordan, fail to scatter his focus. And so the bus — under the Almighty's ever-watchful eye — meanders through Ajloun's often unbannistered windy mountain trails until the driver, judiciously applying his breaks a healthy 75 metres before his intended stopping point, cajoles his Toyota Coaster out to a final halt. "Kufranja, Kufranja," he hollers. This is where the teenage Ammar of the 1970's gets off and commences his mission.

The stone houses rakishly perched atop the village's steep slopes pockmarked with olive groves, prove irresistible to the young artist. In the confines of barely two hours before the dash back to Amman, Ammar walks and reflects in the village's convoluted alleyways and stairs. Stone as old as time surrounds him. People's faces are mostly healthy looking and broadly smiling. The aesthetic obscenity normally associated with, and generated by urban concrete structures is near absent in the pristine hamlet's architecture. The young explorer is mesmerised. This is not his first trip of this sort, but it is one of the more decisive ones in a long series of trips and expeditions which, though the years, have contributed to his deepening love and concern for the traditional way of life, village architecture and, inevitably, the environment. His love for these elements can be seen in the thoroughness of his documentary activities, his art and the many renovations he has come to be so well-known for — art forms in themselves. His overall theme can be encapsulated in the phrase "preservation through appreciation, awareness and historical knowledge."

One can still visit Kufranja today, some 15-20 years hence. The bus ride there now takes place along super-wide highways that undoubtedly shuttle people back and forth very efficiently, but scar the once magnificent and ruggedly beautiful landscape along the way. However, today's Kufranja is hideously bedecked with the tackiest structures that liquid con-



Houses of the village of Samad — overlapping structures

crete and scaffolding can conspire to erect. Pristine, it no longer is. Once serenely rural, it is now jarringly urbanised in a manner reminiscent of Amman downtown's Ras Al-Ein area — albeit, an abridged version thereof.

Sadly, this is also the case with numerous other villages; in every instance when such villages need to house more people, carve more streets, open more shops, the end result is the consistent erosion of the rural or countryside nature of the setting, and the influx of constructional features that are virtually identical to those of large cities and suburbia. Any countryside Jordan still has left is consequently purely accidental since there seem to be very little state-instituted and

enforced laws designed to preserve the unique character of the countryside. Whenever a conscious attempt is made, the end result is usually extremely tacky and distasteful.

Ammar Khammash's current photography exhibition at Darat Al Funun documents the changes over the years, along with this tragic trend of erosion, and in a significant number of cases, annihilation altogether. The medium here is photography; the message construed by the visitor is "Wake up Jordan. Do not take your countryside, its architecture and traditional heritage for granted. They are not everlasting." The medium thus fuses with the message and becomes one. The photographs are beautiful when viewed in isolation, but

painful to behold when considered contextually, for they tell a tale of a reality that is slipping away.

The crisis of our ethno-cultural identity, that has afflicted the region for the best part of this century (and even before), is strongly evident and manifest in many citizens' belittlement of anything Arabic and local. Charming rustic villages that withstood centuries of time and the elements, that augmented and respected nature, are callously being knocked down to make way to a multitude of concrete, depot-looking structures, masquerading as village homes and public buildings.

It has often been said that the medium is the message. This has almost become a

cliché in the realm of the social as well as the empirical sciences, where, the delivery mechanism of any such message is deemed almost as important as the message itself. Delivered correctly, a particular message — whether that of a scientist, philosopher or artist — can pluck a creative cord in the recipient or beholder and capture his/her imagination and intellectual sensibilities.

So what happens when a given medium is able to evoke more than one message and engage more than one area in the perceiver's lobes? Is confusion the result? Perhaps the answer can more easily be arrived at if we remove one of the variables in this conjunctural equation, thereby limiting the extent of the hypotheti-

cal. Let us assume that the medium here is a visual stimulation like, say, photography. The human mind, abounding with complexity, would most probably categorise its responses to such a (visual) stimulation into two basic areas; the actuality and the inference... the latter usually requiring a more conscious, probing attitude than that required by the first.

Ammar Khammash's photography exhibition of Jordanian village architecture resonates with this very important duality of stimulation and message, albeit through a single medium. This medium is still life, captured on paper along with its wealth of rural images, while the message — rather, appeal — is

stronger still. The appeal is made to fellow countrymen and women, in public life as well as private, to halt the cultural erosion that is taking place.

The works, depicting indoor and outdoor architectural features of a handful of villages spanning the north-south axis of Jordan, as well as the rural/environmental dimension, bespeak a dedicated environmentalist's stand on the part of the artist in the broadest sense of the word; an artist whose conception of conservation runs congruent with the phenomena of cultural and architectural preservation through collective appreciation.

The exhibit is part of the Summer Exposition 96 at Darat Al Funun, and runs till October 8.

Text of Clinton's statement

(Continued from page 1)

to-face meetings Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat have had here will help to build trust between them and promote progress on the issues that still divide them.

"The prime minister and the chairman agree that they are partners in peace, understand that it is vital to take each other — take into account each other's needs and concerns, and realise the importance of removing the frictions between them."

"Second, the prime minister and Chairman Arafat have recommitted themselves to a nonviolent future, to renouncing violence in the resolution of their disputes."

"Third, they are ready to renew and intensify negotiations on implementing the interim agreement, with Hebron as the first priority. They are committed to engaging immediately in talks and to achieving tangible progress quickly."

"To assist them in this effort, I am sending Dennis Ross, our special Middle East coordinator, to the region now. The very first meeting will take place on Sunday morning at Erez. They want to resolve the problem of Israeli redeployment from Hebron, and they want to achieve this as soon as possible. I might point out that these talks will be occurring continuously, and these will be the first contin-

uous peace talks that have been held since the prime minister assumed office, with the Palestinians."

"Finally, the leaders also understand the need to make arrangements between their security forces so that cooperation is more reliable and the situation on the ground is stabilised. They are prepared to do what is needed to achieve that, as well."

"All of us should put the meetings that we have had over the last two days into the proper perspective. The peace process did not start today, and it will not be finished tomorrow. For three years now, the Israelis and the Palestinians have been moving forward along the path to a lasting peace."

"Every step is hard. It requires both sides to make difficult decisions and to keep their eyes fixed on the prize of lasting peace. But the progress they have made is proof to the world that progress is possible and peace is possible. Both sides know there is no turning back. Just as there could be no peace without security, there can be no true security without peace."

"I believe Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat understand the choice they face every day. It is the choice between cooperation and conflict, between progress and regression, between hope and fear. The Israeli and Palestinian people have chosen to strive for

cooperation, progress, and hope. Now it falls to their leaders to guide them toward those goals to help them stay true to their choice and ultimately to succeed."

"In this effort we are all profoundly privileged to have a partner in King Hussein. He has shown the world equal parts of courage and wisdom. And he has especially shown that here this week, I thank him for being here. I rely on his counsel. The peace process has no better friend."

"Most of all, let me again thank Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat, who came here at very difficult times with tensions high. I am convinced they both want a more peaceful and prosperous future for their people. I am convinced they both want a more secure future for their people. And I believe they are both prepared to do the hard work that is necessary to achieve their goals."

"For our part, the United States will always be there to help. We remain committed to our common goal: A just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We recognise our special responsibility to protect the peace process at moments of extreme difficulty, to help move it forward."

"We have embraced this responsibility because those who take risks for peace must be able to count on the United States."

(Continued from page 1)

by side, watching grimly, but made no statements despite an invitation by Mr. Clinton to do so and reporters repeated suggestion that their silence underscored the summit's failure.

Seeking to put the most positive possible spin on an emergency summit that failed even to yield a joint communiqué, Mr. Clinton said the meeting had been successful on all three of its main goals.

He said both sides met the goals "to curb the terrible violence and death that we saw last week... to get the Israelis and the Palestinians talking again at the highest levels and... to help both parties return to the hard work of building peace through negotiations."

"I personally feel that the prospects for progress are better than two days ago," he said.

Both sides expressed fears that a failure to achieve progress on concrete issues would spark another bout of Middle East violence.

"Both sides know that if Arafat and Netanyahu don't sign an agreement Palestinians and Israelis will start shooting at each other again," an Israeli source said.

Natan Sharansky, an Israeli cabinet officer, said

Israel had rejected as impossible an American request for a specific date for the Hebron pullback.

"We say to commit oneself to a date is to create a built-in possibility of the talks breaking down," the former Soviet dissident said.

Further, Mr. Sharansky said Israel would not reverse Mr. Netanyahu's opening of the new tunnel entrance.

Mahmoud Abbas, Mr. Arafat's deputy, said in an interview that the gap between the Israelis and Palestinians remained wide, despite the talks, but he said the Arafat-Netanyahu meeting was not "negative."

"It was to all 'no, no, no.' At the same time it wasn't all 'yes, yes, yes,'" he said. The White House said the talks went "a long way towards reestablishing that notion of trust that must exist between the parties."

Sill, Mr. McCurry said: "We are at a very, very difficult moment. We are still at that moment."

Mr. Clinton, steering clear of pressure tactics as impractical, left the two leaders to their deliberations after meeting separately Tuesday with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat and then jointly with them and King Hussein.

"What the United States has done since I have been president is not to pressure

anyone, but to get the parties together," Mr. Clinton said Tuesday.

And so he did, inviting them to lunch and then stepping away to prepare for his debate Sunday with Republican presidential challenger Bob Dole and to tend to other White House work.

Mr. Netanyahu was to meet with Mr. Dole Wednesday.

The summit was politically risky for Mr. Clinton, testing both his leadership and his relationship with Israel. Mr. Dole and Republican congressional leaders have publicly urged him to stand by the Netanyahu government and not isolate it amid worldwide criticism.

Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat met for 45 minutes in the presidential library, under a portrait of George Washington, with only the State Department's Arabic-speaking interpreter, Gamal Helal, present. The talk went on an additional 2 hours and 15 minutes with Mr. Abbas and Itzhak Molkho, an Israeli lawyer, participating.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, meanwhile, met with Israeli, Palestinian and Jordanian officials, and then separately with Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat.

The end result of all these meetings was the statement by President Clinton.

Time for actions rather than words, King to Netanyahu

(Continued from page 1)

what was seen as breaking the ice between the two, according to White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

The King also provided inspiration to Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu by making "a very emotional appeal" to honour their peace agreements, Mr. McCurry told reporters Tuesday as the Palestinian and Israeli leaders were meeting over lunch.

The lunch, said the spokesman, "came about as a result of a suggestion advanced by" U.S. President Bill Clinton and King Hussein.

"That was not the scenario that initially was planned, but one that seemed to make sense (as a result) of the conversations today," Mr. McCurry said, according to a transcript of the spokesman's comments made available by the United Nations Information Agency (UNIA).

Mr. McCurry recalled President Clinton's rationale for calling the summit, noting the parties had reached "a moment in the process when a great deal of trust has been lost, a great deal of anger and frustration had begun to permeate the environment for the dialogue that must occur. The discussions today have

gone a long way towards reestablishing that notion of trust."

Mr. McCurry said King Hussein delivered an impassioned appeal for peace during the quadrilateral meeting in the Oval Office, suggesting the leaders had a moral obligation to act as peacemakers.

"The King gave a very emotional appeal to these parties," Mr. McCurry said, urging them "to honour the commitments both had made to peace and try to do everything possible to erase the anger and frustration of recent days and to move into a more constructive relationship. He said he considered this in some ways a religious obligation... all the people in that room have that fundamental obligation."

Mr. McCurry said the King's role at the summit was partly to help the parties come closer together and "partly inspiration."

"He spoke in a very moving way about the choice for peace he had made, what it has meant to the people of Jordan, and what it has meant to him personally; and from that perspective his contribution today was to lend some moral authority to the notion that these leaders were doing something noble by attempting to address these differences and move forward," said Mr. McCurry.

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Kafelnikov through as Ferreira bows out

LYON (AFP) — Number two seed five Yevgeny Kafelnikov had to battle Tuesday to come through his first round clash at the men's \$750,000 ATP indoor event here as he edged Czech Daniel Vacek in three sets.

World number five Kafelnikov needed two hours of hard graft to come through against his 36th-ranked opponent 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (5/7), 6-4.

The shock of the day was the defeat of South Africa's third-seeded Wayne Ferreira, returning after a knee operation. The world number six bowed 7-5, 4-6, 4-6 to Moroccan Younes El Aynaoui, ranked 65th on the ATP computer.

Elsewhere, fourth-seeded Chilean Marcelo Rios had a tough battle to defeat German Alex Radulescu, who replaced the injured Stefan Edberg here, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5). Radulescu constantly attacked to force Rios into a series of errors, but the Chilean rallied to take the final set tiebreak after his opponent had led 5-2.



Yevgeny Kafelnikov

Number eight seed Michael Stich of Germany meanwhile won his opening encounter with Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, coming through 7-6 (7/4), 6-2.

Local crowd favourite Guy Forget, ranked 41 in the world, lost his late evening clash with Britain's Tim Henman, who came through 6-4, 6-2.

Forget never recovered after he lost his serve to go

4-5 down in the first set to the 32nd-ranked Briton, who raced through the second to take the match in 59 minutes, winning the last game to love.

Kafelnikov qualifies for world championship

French Open holder Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia, currently ranked number five in the world, has qualified for the ATP Tour world championship which takes place in Hanover, Germany, next month.

An ATP statement confirmed Tuesday that Kafelnikov, currently playing in the \$750,000 indoor event in Lyon, had qualified to take his place behind Americans Pete Sampras and Michael Chang, Austria's Thomas Muster and Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic.

The Hanover event, which opens on November 19, will comprise the eight players accumulating the most tour points from their 14 best results of the year.

Ravanelli dreams of move to Manchester United

FLORENCE (AFP) — Middlesbrough's Italian international striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, a seven million pound summer signing from European champions Juventus, said Tuesday he was interested in a move to Manchester United.

Speaking at the Italian national side's training camp in Florence as he prepared for Italy's World Cup qualifiers with Georgia and Moldova, Ravanelli indicated that the Premiership champions had already drawn up a ten-million pound (\$16 million) move.

"The idea is exciting because Manchester United is prestigious," the 28-year-old Ravanelli was reported as saying. "Let's wait and see what happens on my return to England."

Middlesbrough officials were unavailable for comment late Tuesday with the team about to embark on a two-match tour of the Far East with no Premiership matches this week because of World Cup action.

But United chief executive Martin Edwards immediately denied the story and said it had no foundation whatsoever.

Edwards said: "It's absolute nonsense. There is no foundation in these

stories whatsoever."

He said there had been no discussions with Middlesbrough and added that media requests to him to clarify the situation had come as a "complete shock."

The silver-haired Ravanelli has exploded onto the Premiership scene, scoring ten goals already.

He hit a hat-trick on his debut against Liverpool and stands at the top of the goalscoring charts.

But he told reporters back in Italy that he was finding it hard challenging for a UEFA Cup spot with Middlesbrough, a club only just entering the big-time, when he was used to winning major trophies.

He went on that he was happy in England. "although I miss my parents a bit."

Ravanelli said the lifestyle suited him in that "after training there aren't all those journalists waiting for you."

"The game is hard but correct," he added.

Classic Cliche still in Arc reckoning

LONDON (R) — Classic Cliche still remains Frankie Dettori's likely Prix De L'Arc De Triomphe mount. Classic Cliche, the Ascot Gold Cup winner, is one of 29 left in Sunday's big race, although he missed a gallop a couple of days ago after looking dull in his coat.

Racing manager Simon Crisford said on Tuesday: "Classic Cliche cantered this morning and was bright. He is scheduled to do some more work before we make up our minds."

Dettori will switch to 33-1 outsider Tamure if Classic Cliche becomes an absentee.

Tamure finished second in last year's Epsom Derby but has not run this season because of fast ground. Easy going is predicted for Longchamp on Sunday.

Latest Betting: 5-2 Helissio, 5-1 Swain, 11-2 Darazari, Zagreb, 7-1 Pentire, 8-1 Classic Cliche, 10-1 Shaamit, 14-1 Oscar Schindler, Pilsudski, 25-1 Radevora, Ragmar, 33-1 Gadevora, Grape Tree Road, Miss Tahiti, Strategic Choice, Sunshack and

Tamure. Later, Michael Kinane expressed doubts regarding his mount Zagreb, winner of the Irish Derby.

Kinane said: "It's a slight worry that he goes without a prep race and with a lack of experience, but the state of the ground has been the reason we haven't been able to get a run into him."

Of the opposition on Sunday, Kinane is particularly sweet on the chances of current favourite Helissio, the mount of Olivier Peslier.

"I've got great respect for Helissio with the only blemish on his form coming when he pulled too hard in the French Derby."

"But with the ground now soft I think things are swinging against Pentire." Freddie Head, who does not yet have a ride booked for Sunday's race, is more keen on the prospects of Andre Fabre's Swain.

"Swain is probably the one to beat. It wasn't his day last year as he seemed to go mad in the parade," Head said.



Former boxing heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, jokingly spars with member Renard Jones during a surprise visit to the Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Gym in Las Vegas. The gym is mostly utilized to train at-risk and disadvantaged youth to box (Reuters photo)

Hoddle imposes strict regime on England squad

LONDON (AFP) — England coach Glenn Hoddle has cancelled weekend leave for his squad as he sets his sights on his first home World Cup match against Poland next Wednesday.

The players, who returned on Wednesday to their base for the first home game since Euro 96, have been told of quite a few changes from the Terry Venables regime.

The easy-going Venables allowed his players the time off from Saturday lunchtime to Sunday evening in the middle of his long build-ups.

But Hoddle has taken a different approach, saying: "There will be training periods and there will be rest periods. But they won't be going off."

"They'll be eating here and staying every night. Once here, they're on international duty for the seven days we've got to prepare. That's what international football is all about."

Hoddle denied that bad behaviour by some of the England squad on the flight home from Hong Kong in the spring, and Paul Gascoigne's pulling down Paul Ince's tracksuit bottoms in Moldova were the reasons for his decision.

But Hoddle, a disciple of new Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger's strict approach to players' off the field behaviour, clearly wants a more thoughtful approach to the business than Venables' light-hearted way.

Wenger, for whom Hoddle played at Monaco, has told the Arsenal squad to cut down on their alcoholic consumption when they are off duty. Their captain Tony Adams recently admitted that he was an alcoholic and was receiving counselling.

He plans regular daily double training sessions, is looking at the players' diet at their hotel and has introduced a masseur, Steve Slatery, a former Swindon acquaintance who accompanied the squad to Kishinev for the opening 3-0 win.

Hoddle has also risked media ire by changing a long-held system, intending that no players will be available for interview the day before big games, and giving them four "clear" days out of seven free from the intrusion of the press, television and radio army.

He will also follow the lead set by Venables this summer in not naming his side until just before kick-off.

Eagles may replace injured Peete

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) — Philadelphia Eagles coach Ray Rhodes said Tuesday that the club plans to bring in Mark Rypien for a physical examination and a workout as part of their plan to replace injured quarterback Rodney Peete.

Rypien, who led the Washington Redskins to the 1991 Super Bowl title, was let go by the St. Louis Rams in training camp this year.

Peete's season ended when he ruptured his right patella tendon in Monday night's 23-19 loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

Peete underwent surgery to repair the knee on Tuesday.

"The prognosis is that he should recover fully. It is quite a devastating and serious injury, so it could take some time to recover."

We expect him to convalesce over the next six to nine months," said team doctor Arthur Bartolozzi, who performed the surgery.

"The tendon is the structure that connects the kneecap to the tibia. The tear, in this case, completely separates the kneecap from the lower leg."

Peete, who completed 9-of-16 passes for 98 yards and one interception, suffered the injury in the veterans stadium turf while dropping back to pass late in the second quarter.

Dr. Edward de Bono's visit to Jordan

The worldwide thinker, writer and consultant Dr. Edward de Bono, will visit Jordan next week in order to conduct a seminar for Jordanian Businessmen in "Lateral Thinking" a concept that he created and now has an official entry in the Oxford English Dictionary, and which he himself teaches this concept by doing seminars worldwide for all ages and nationalities.

Many international corporations attribute their success to the direct use of lateral thinking.

Dr. de Bono had written more than 53 books, about this subject and other subjects involves the mind and the way it functions. In addition he designed the CORT thinking programme which is widely used for the direct teaching of thinking in schools, and it is being introduced mandatory into schools in some countries.

Dr. de Bono has been invited to lecture in 45 countries, and in 1989 he organised and chaired a meeting of Nobel Prizes winners in Seoul/Korea.

This visit, as says his representative in Jordan Ms. Dina Faidi, is considered a unique and successful experience to all businessmen attending the seminar next week in cooperation with Amman World Trade Centre.

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Texas Rangers fielder Juan Gonzalez (R) gets a high-five at homeplate from teammate Dean Palmer after his three-run homerun against the New York Yankees in the fourth inning at Yankee Stadium in New York. Gonzalez hit the homer off Yankee starting pitcher David Cone (Reuters photo)

Umpires back off boycott as baseball playoffs open

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Baseball umpires backed off a threatened boycott, allowing the Major League playoffs to open, but said a walkout is possible later this week without an agreement in a dispute involving discipline of a player who spat on an umpire.

The umpires and league officials had both sought emergency court rulings on the matter as negotiations were held minutes before the start of the first playoff game between the Baltimore Orioles and Cleveland Indians.

Umpires union chief Richie Phillips had said crews planned to boycott the playoff games if Baltimore Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar were allowed to play.

Alomar received a five-game suspension after spitting on umpire John Hirschbeck Friday, but appealed, and played Saturday as the suspension was delayed.

League officials went to court Tuesday seeking a restraining order in a federal court in Philadelphia that would have umpires in place for the first game at 1:00 p.m. (1700 GMT) in Baltimore. The umpires' contract contains a no-strike clause.

Phillips was in the same court, arguing that the failure to suspend Alomar violates the umpires' collective bargaining agreement and forced umpires to work in "unsafe" conditions.

Marty Springstead, executive director of umpiring for the American League, said, "there has been no agreement and no injunction has been issued, but the umpires have agreed to work today and tomorrow."

Springstead said the umpires could walk out if an agreement is not reached by Thursday. A hearing regarding Alomar has been moved up to Thursday.

Baseball officials had said replacement umpires would be used if the crews failed to report to Orioles Park in Baltimore. The game started about 15 minutes late.

Alomar issued a release through the team that apologized to Hirschbeck and his family. The apology came three days after Alomar said he had "no regrets" about spitting on Hirschbeck and questioning his integrity.

"I wish to take this opportunity to apologize to John Hirschbeck and his family for any pain and embarrassment that my comments and actions may have caused them," Alomar said. "I deeply regret my disrespectful conduct towards a man that I know always gives his utmost as an umpire. Certainly, he has worked at least as hard as I have to make it to the majors."

Alomar was ejected by Hirschbeck on Friday night in Toronto for arguing balls and strikes. He bumped Hirschbeck and spat on the umpire before being restrained by manager Davey Johnson. After the

Orioles unruffled by Alomar controversy

BALTIMORE, Maryland (AFP) — The Major League baseball playoffs started on a sour note Tuesday, but at least they started as umpires postponed their threatened post-season boycott.

Umpires were angered by the delayed suspension given to Baltimore Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar, who spit at umpire John Hirschbeck during a game on Friday (see separate story).

Alomar was suspended for five regular season games, but umpires wanted the penalty to include post-season play.

Neither Alomar, who went 1-for-4 and drove in one run, nor the umpires had a significant impact on the game in Baltimore.

Bobby Bonilla's grand slam capped a five-run sixth-inning, and the Orioles had four homers as they pounded the reigning AL champions Cleveland 10-4 in their best-of-five division series opener.

B.J. Surhoff homered twice and Brady Anderson belted another leadoff homer for the Orioles, who set a major-league record with 257 homers this season.

Baltimore led 4-3 with one out in the bottom of the sixth when Chris Hoiles walked and Brady Anderson followed with a single.

Cleveland starter Charles Nagy walked Todd Zeile on a close full-count pitch to load the bases.

Alan Embree came on and Alomar lifted a sacrifice fly to score bootes for a 5-3 lead. Paul Shuey relieved and Bonilla ripped a low fastball into the right-field seats to give the Orioles a 9-3 bulge.

"I was concentrating on one pitch and I wanted to make sure it was below my hands," Bonilla said. "I was able to get a pitch to hit."

David Wells, who entered the post-season with a 13.83 earned run average in his last three regular-season starts, labored to the victory by allowing four runs and eight hits in 6 2/3 innings. He threw 110 pitches and did not record a 1-2-3 inning until the fifth.

Wells left the game after being hit in the ankle with a shot off the bat off Kevin Seitzer.

In the other AL division series, John Burkett out-pitched David Cone, and Juan Gonzalez and Dean Palmer homered in a five-run fourth inning as the Texas Rangers made their post-season debut a memorable one with a 6-2 defeat of the New York Yankees.

The Western Division champion Rangers roughed up Cone and surprised the Yankees, who won the East and are in search of their 23rd world series title.

Burkett, who was acquired from the Florida Marlins in August and had never faced the Yankees, scattered 10 hits in a complete game.

The right-hander walked one, struck out seven and pitched out of big jams in the first and sixth. The Yankees were just 1-for-11 with runners in scoring position.

Cone, who was sidelined for four months with an aneurysm in his right shoulder, fell to 3-3 in his 12th playoff start.

In the National League, Todd Stottlemyre and two relievers combined on an eight-hitter and Gary Gaetti's three-run homer in the first inning proved to be enough as the St. Louis Cardinals edged the San Diego Padres 3-1.

Stottlemyre, who pitched for the World Series champion Toronto Blue Jays in 1992 and 1993, notched his first post-season win. He dominated the first five innings, allowing only a one-out double to Tony Gwynn in the first inning and walking to Ken Caminiti in the fourth.

game. Alomar said Hirschbeck had become "more bitter" since the death of his son.

Hirschbeck, who had to be restrained after learning of Alomar's comments, was relieved of his umpiring duties Saturday and Sunday.

After appealing his suspension, Alomar homered in the 10th inning Saturday, giving the Orioles the win they needed to wrap up the American League wildcard berth.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Raul on target as Real go top

MADRID (AFP) — Raul Gonzalez celebrated his call up to the full Spanish squad by blasting his fourth goal of the season as Real Madrid went top of the Spanish League on Tuesday, beating Espanyol 2-0 at the Bernabeu. Croatian star Davor Suker set up the 19-year-old's goal on six minutes and then hit the killer second to take real a point clear of deadly rivals Barcelona.

Newell asks for transfer

LONDON (AFP) — Former Blackburn and Everton striker Mike Newell stunned Birmingham on Tuesday by asking for a transfer just two months after his arrival at the first division club. Blues' manager Trevor Francis confirmed his \$775,000 signing had submitted a written request. Newell missed most of the pre-season build-up after picking up a hamstring injury. He was dropped for last Saturday's match with QPR after scoring three goals in 10 games.

Royle keeps Kanchelskis

LONDON (AFP) — Everton manager Joe Royle on Tuesday told Russian winger Andrei Kanchelskis to put all thoughts of a move out of his mind after the Toffees' boss rejected an offer for him from Italian outfit Fiorentina. Kanchelskis has admitted speaking with an agent about a move and also says he would like to play in the Serie A, but Royle left him in no doubt as to where his loyalties lie. "Andrei has to get on with playing football and leave the other side of things to us. I will be having a word with him," said Royle. "We have known of Fiorentina's interest and it has been rebuffed. It's as simple as that. End of story. "Sometimes things are lost in translation, but Andrei's main concern is maintaining the form he showed last weekend." Kanchelskis said he was pleased about Fiorentina's interest. But he stressed he was not looking to leave Everton and was not "rocking the boat."

Brighton fans invade pitch

LONDON (AFP) — Brighton may have to play some matches behind closed doors and have three points deducted following a pitch invasion by disgruntled fans at Tuesday's third division encounter with Lincoln at the goldstone ground. Brighton already had a Football Association sentence hanging over them with their fans having rioted to force the abandonment of a game against York last April. The players had to take refuge in the dressing rooms for several minutes after fans, angry at the breakdown of talks between chairman Bill Archer and a business consortium wanting to take over the club, ignored appeals to stay calm and invaded the pitch midway through the first half. Another 100 or so supporters from other sections of the ground then spilled onto the pitch and congregated in the centre circle before returning to their seats. To make matters worse, Brighton lost 3-1.

UEFA oppose Wimbledon Dublin plan

LONDON (AFP) — UEFA insist they are opposed to Premiership side Wimbledon relocating to Dublin and will not sanction a move they feel is against the spirit of the game.

Wimbledon are the subject of a takeover bid by rock group U2's manager Paul McGuinness and property developer Owen O'Callaghan. The proposal to buy Wimbledon was first moved by the Dublin international sports council, headed by Heinz President Dr Tony O'Reilly.

But UEFA spokesman Salvatore Cuccu stressed that situation will not alter the long-held position of European soccer's governing body.

"UEFA are specific about this," he said. "Wimbledon are an English club with a home in England and UEFA is not in favour of them moving to a foreign country."

"It is okay to be innovative and look for new

opportunities, but this move would cause a great many problems. It is regrettable that a club from the home of football should be involved in a venture of this sort."

"It goes against the spirit of football, of crossing national boundaries, and we are not in favour of it."

UEFA's main problem with the deal is that should Wimbledon qualify for Europe they would have to be classified as an Irish club and not an English club, even though they play in the English League.



Russian grandmaster Garry Kasparov thinks over his next move during a game in Yerevan. Russians, clear favourites from the start, won the men's title in the 32nd Chess Olympiad after beating Iceland 2.5 points to 1.5 in the final round (Reuters photo)

Russia seals 3rd straight Chess Olympiad win

YEREVAN (AFP) — Russia clinched the gold medal in the 32nd Chess Olympiad with a win against Iceland late Tuesday while Georgia won the gold in the women's event, both countries comfortably retaining their titles from the 1984 Olympiad. The Russian team, headed by unofficial world champion Garry Kasparov, led the 127-strong field by three and a half points ahead of its nearest rivals, China and Russia.

China took the silver medal on the tie-break, leaving Russia with the bronze. Russia has won the gold medal in every Olympiad in which it has competed (1992, 1994, 1996) since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In the sidelines of the Olympiads, Russian politician and businessman Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was re-elected head of the

world chess federation (FIDE), defeating rival candidate Jaime Sunye-Neto of Brazil by 87 votes to 46.

The results of the leading-teams in the final round of matches were:

Russia - Iceland	2.5 - 1.5
Ukraine - Armenia	2 - 2
United states - Georgia	2.5 - 1.5
England - Hungary	2.5 - 1.5
Spain - Slovenia	3 - 1

The final table (leading positions) in the men's competition:

1. Russia	38.5 points (gold medal)
2. Ukraine	35 (silver medal)
3. United States	34 (bronze medal)
4. England	34
5-7. Armenia, Bosnia, Spain	33.5

The final table (leading positions) in the women's competition:

1. Georgia	30 points (gold medal)
2. China	28.5 (silver)
3. Russia	28.5 (bronze)

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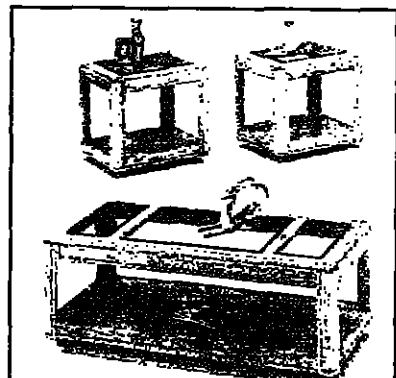
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Afghan rivals amass forces near key tunnel amid U.N. envoy's shuttles

KABUL (Agencies) — In the mountains north of the capital, Taliban fighters clamoured over mountains to tighten their siege on the lone valley still in the hands of former government soldiers.

Nearby, on the strategic Salang Highway soldiers dug trenches and moved in tanks and artillery, while a U.N. envoy tried to prevent a fresh outbreak of fighting.

U.N. special representative Norbert Holl met Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum in his northern headquarters of Mazar-e-Sharif before flying later Wednesday to Kabul to meet the Taliban leaders who now control most of the war-ravaged nation.

It wasn't immediately known what occurred in the meetings, but there were earlier unconfirmed reports that General Dostum was preparing to send a delegation to Kabul.

The Taliban army, made up mostly of seminarian students and clerics who want to rule by the Koran, have routed most of the smaller armies that have been battling for Afghanistan for years.

On Friday they overran the army of Ahmad Shah Massoud, which had been shoring up the regime of President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The remnants of Mr. Massoud's army is trapped in the Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul. His soldiers dynamited the entrance to the valley a day earlier and apparently laid dozens of landmines in the area.

But on Wednesday bearded Taliban soldiers with Kalashnikovs and rocket launchers slung over their shoulders clamoured over the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountains to reach the Panjshir valley, vowing to chase Massoud out of Afghanistan or capture him and put him on trial as a war criminal.

Several hundred refugees were seen heading south towards Kabul, lugging bags of clothes and dragging young children.

Gen. Dostum's army of mostly ethnic Uzbeks and Tajiks is the only force standing in the way of complete Taliban control of Afghanistan.

The majority of the Taliban fighters belong to Pashtun ethnic group causing many observers to predict a bloody ethnic war if the two sides fail to reach an agreement at the negotiation table.

While both sides have expressed a willingness to negotiate they also are preparing the battlefield.

"We have no plans to fight Gen. Dostum if he surrenders, but if he doesn't we are ready," said Sher Khan, a Taliban fighter at the front line, about 150 kilometres north of Kabul.

"Fighting can be avoided if Dostum gets out of our way," said Mullah Saquib, a Taliban spokesman in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar.

A traveller from Mazar-e-Sharif said preparations for war were going on along the key Salang Highway that connects Kabul to Central Asia.

"There were lots of heavy weapons, tanks and troops of Dostum's," said Mohammad Zarif, a Kabul-based trader.

Mr. Zarif said he pleaded with Gen. Dostum's troops for five hours to allow three bus loads of people to cross the tunnel.

Gen. Dostum has reportedly sent 40,000 troops to bolster his front line against the Taliban.

Witnesses and refugees said the two sides were squared off about five kilometres apart at a village.

"We are prepared for war if Taliban forces move to our positions," warned Fatch Khan, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

Officials of two Pakistani Islamic parties on Wednesday censured the Taliban for its latest decrees enforcing a purist brand of Islam after it conquered Kabul.

Both Jamaat-e-Islami Party deputy leader Ghafoor Ahmed and Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan Vice-President Shah Faridul Haq said orders barring women from education and work and from going out of their homes without the veil, and ordering men to grow long beards, could paint a negative image of Islam.

"There is no justification to close down schools and colleges for women or restrict their education, nor to ban employment of women in offices," Mr. Ahmed told Reuters.

"In Islam there is no suppression," he said. "Such extremist steps will damage the name of Islam, which embraces the concept of a welfare state and emphasises justice."

The Jamaat, the most well-organised of Pakistan's Islamic parties, sent its militants into Afghanistan to fight the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.



Afghan women wearing full veils follow a man along a Kabul street after the hardline Taliban militia imposed strict orders forbidding women to work or study (Reuters photo)

Some of the steps taken by Taliban had damaged the name of Islam and portrayed a false picture, he said.

The Taliban militia has also ordered people to offer Islamic prayers five times a day as its latest measure to enforce a purist brand of Islam.

A broadcast by the Taliban-controlled Kabul Radio on Tuesday night, whose report was available on Wednesday, quoted a religious department official as asking local prayer leaders and headmen to bring violators to Taliban offices.

The decrees by the Taliban, which began as a movement of theology students and now controls three quarters of the country, have struck fear into many educated people, especially women, in the Afghan capital.

Taliban had earlier decreed death by stoning for adultery and amputation of hands for theft.

But in a rare show of leniency after an outcry abroad about the denial of women's rights, Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, issued a decree on Monday promising women laid off from their jobs to be paid their salaries without working.

Their salaries will be sent to their homes, a Kabul Radio broadcast said on Tuesday.

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The newspaper of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday lambasted the United Nations secretary-general on Wednesday, saying he postponed an Iraqi oil-for-food deal in order to persuade Washington to extend his term of office.

"Even the U.N. secretary-general who had urged Iraq to enter dialogue to sign the memorandum, sought the first opportunity, giving the security in northern Iraq as an excuse, to postpone its implementation, flouting the U.S. in order that it may accept to extend his term of office," the daily Babel said in Iraq's first attack on U.N. chief Boutros Ghali since it signed the deal with the world body on May 20.

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The Jamaat, the most well-organised of Pakistan's Islamic parties, sent its militants into Afghanistan to fight the Soviet occupation in the 1980s.

Mr. Ahmed urged Taliban leaders to avoid repressive measures, which he said would not help bring peace to their war-torn country.

"These decisions are made in haste," Mr. Ahmed said of Taliban's decrees after the movement's militia captured Kabul on Friday.

"Education for women is as necessary as for men...while there is no fixed standard for hejab (veil)," he said.

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British girl once wed to Turkish waiter has baby

LONDON (R) — Fourteen-year-old British girl who married a Turkish waiter she met on holiday and was then ordered back to Britain earlier this year gave birth to a baby boy Tuesday, Welfare Services said.

Sarah Cooke met the baby's father, Musa Komeagac, 18, while on holiday in Turkey and married him a few months later in a religious ceremony. But Britain and Turkey declared the marriage invalid. Cooke was ordered back to England by British courts in February.

while Komeagac was charged with rape in Turkey. By the time she was returned to her parents, Cooke was pregnant and she vowed she would return to her "husband" as soon as she could. "Sarah and her baby are both in good health and she was able to speak to her baby's father after the birth," social services in the eastern England county of Essex said in a statement. "There are no immediate plans for Musanin (Komeagac) to visit her." The baby weighed seven pounds (3.17 kg), the statement said.

Qadhafi wants to get rid of UTA suspects — Senoussi

CAIRO (R) — The pretender to the Libyan throne said on Tuesday Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had agreed to let French investigators put four key intelligence and justice officials on trial because he wants to get rid of them.

Prince Mohammad Al Hassan Al Senoussi, the exiled nephew of the last king of Libya, told Reuters from his home in London there was a deep rift between Colonel Qadhafi and several of his closest aides and that using them as scapegoats for the bombing of a French airliner in 1989 was a sure way to isolate them.

"They're certainly scapegoats because Qadhafi is the only one who gave the orders for this bombing," Prince Senoussi said.

"By giving them up for trial, he's killing two birds with one stone — getting them out of the country because he's become very suspicious of them and also turning the accusing fingers away from himself."

Earlier this month, Col. Qadhafi allowed France's chief anti-terrorism investigator Jean Louis Bruguiere into Libya to gather information about the bombing of the UTA Airlines DC-10 over the Sahara. All 170 passengers and crew died in the crash.

The bombing occurred at the height of tension between France and Libya over Chad, where forces from the two countries clashed repeatedly in the 1970s and 1980s.

Libya has so far refused to turn over any of the suspects although the U.N. has slapped tough economic sanctions on Tripoli to encourage its cooperation in the probe into the 1989 UTA crash and that of the Pan Am flight over Scotland in 1988.

Mr. Bruguiere wants six Libyans — including Col. Qadhafi's brother-in-law and two secret service agents — to be tried in absentia next year.

"Qadhafi knows he cannot just kill all these men, they are of his tribe, so he's found a convenient way to replace them by new faces which will be totally loyal to him," Prince Senoussi said.

The Libyan leader has recently launched a nationwide "purification" campaign against corruption and racketeering which opposition sources say is just a front to get rid of powerful and increasingly disgruntled cohorts.

Prince Senoussi said the disparity between France's suspect list and the victims of Col. Qadhafi's secret plot was proof the Libyan leader had ulterior motives for cooperating.

He listed four names which Col. Qadhafi was targeting: the leader's brother-in-law Abdullah Al Senoussi, deputy head of intelligence.

Musa Mohammad Kusa of the internal communications committee, Hamad Hegazi from the Justice Ministry and Ibrahim Al Beshari, who is in charge of external security.

Apart from Abdullah Al Senoussi, France wants alleged secret agents Abdul Salam Issa Shibani, Abdul Salam Hamouda, Ibrahim Naelt and Musbah Arbas. It also issued a warrant for diplomat Abuallah Al Azragh.

United States officials have criticised the trip to Libya, which the U.S. considers to be a state sponsor of terrorism. Mr. Agar said the trip would be of no benefit to Turkey.

Mr. Agar, a key member of the junior coalition partner True Path Party, said on private channel show TV he had not signed a decree approving the trip which ministers were asked to sign at a cabinet meeting late on Tuesday.

Turkish State Minister Abdullah Gul, from Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party, has dismissed criticism of the visit and said Turkey was looking after its own interests. Turkish trade officials have already arrived in Tripoli to seek Libya's payment of outstanding debts of up to \$365 million due to Turkish building contractors.

Erbakan faces trouble over visit to Libya

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey's Interior Minister Mehmet Agar has threatened to resign if Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan goes ahead with a much criticised visit to Libya.

"Naturally, whatever political traditions require must be done," Mr. Agar said when asked whether he would resign over the trip in a television interview late on Tuesday.

Premier Erbakan was scheduled to begin a foreign tour on Wednesday with a two-day trip to Egypt before heading to Libya on Friday and returning to Turkey next week after visiting Nigeria.

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Mr. Erbakan made no mention of the Libya visit when he spoke to members of his Welfare Party on Tuesday about the foreign trip.

Published reports suggested in recent weeks that more than 100,000 U.S. troops from several divisions might have been exposed to fall out from a massive white cloud from the explosion.

The issue, in which the Pentagon denied ignoring complaints of veterans or trying to cover up information, has become a major military and political controversy.

"I don't think anybody will know what an accurate figure is until after the model is run," Bacon said of a sophisticated computer estimate being prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) on how big the blast cloud might have been and where it went.

"Even then it will be a technological estimate. It will be

15,000 U.S. soldiers exposed to chemicals in Gulf war — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (R) — The Pentagon said on Tuesday that at least 15,000 and perhaps far more U.S. Gulf war veterans might have been exposed to chemical weapons in the destruction of an Iraqi ammunition dump five years ago.

Defence Department spokesman Ken Bacon also told reporters that the prestigious private National Academy of Sciences had agreed to a request to study the department's controversial handling of "Gulf war illness."

The Pentagon said two weeks ago that it was notifying 5,000 U.S. troops that they might have been exposed to sarin nerve gas when chemical rockets and shells were blown up at the Kamisiyah ammunition depot in southern Iraq in March 1991.

"I think we have to think in terms of big numbers. Bigger than 15,000, certainly," Mr. Bacon said on Tuesday when pressed by reporters on whether that number could grow significantly.

Baghdad rejects U.N. inspector's charges

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq on Wednesday rejected charges by a U.N. weapons inspector that there were serious problems with documents Iraq had turned over to the United Nations.

Charles Duelfer, deputy head of the U.N. weapons team monitoring Iraq, said his current mission was to tell Iraqi officials about the problems the U.N. weapons commission had with the documents provided by Baghdad. He did not say what the problems were.

"We believe that Iraq continues to retain prohibited materials and documents that we need to find," Mr. Duelfer said Tuesday.

Iraq's oil minister, Amer Rashid, said Iraq "received the statements with total astonishment, because Mr. Duelfer confirmed during his first meeting with us Sunday... That the special commission made good progress in carrying its mission."

Mr. Rashid's comments were reported by the official Iraqi News Agency.

The documents were handed over to U.N. inspectors by Iraq a year ago in what Baghdad called a full disclosure of its programmes to produce weapons of mass destruction.

"The statements of Mr. Duelfer, who is an American national, come as if they are a reflection of the American administration policy, which aims at hindering the (U.N.) special commission from completing its work," Mr. Rashid said in remarks carried by the Iraqi news agency.

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No blowing your nose, no spitting, bill says

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Blowing your nose and spitting in public could become criminal offences subject to hefty fines if you live in Braila, eastern Romania, where the town council is about to outlaw such behaviour. Local officials said Monday a draft resolution drawn up by a member of the Romanian Ecology Party was put to a debate last week and should be approved shortly. Under the bill, people caught blowing their nose, spitting in the streets or spitting out the shells of pumpkin seeds — a snack particularly enjoyed in football stadiums — could be fined between 500,000 and one million lei (between \$150 and \$300). The bill's sponsor Nelu Dobrescu said it was aimed at cleaning up the city and protecting people against certain transmissible diseases.

Initial reports in June indicated that only a small number of troops from a U.S. engineering battalion were involved in destroying weapons in a bunker, but the new report included a pit several miles kilometres from the bunker.

Mr. Bacon said on Tuesday that Deputy Defence Secretary John White asked the National Academy of Sciences and the Institute of Medicine, which is part of the department's "overall approach to the Gulf war illness — both its treatment patterns as well as the way we're assembling information."

"They will actually undertake two projects," he said. "The first project is to review our approach, and the second is to look into the future and to advise us on a long-term strategy for protecting the health of military personnel deployed in unfamiliar environments."

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